THE TIMES

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Relaxed Major earns show of unity

Tories clear their decks for election

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND JILL SHERMAN

MINISTERS cleared the decks ready for the general election yesterday by pruning controversial measures from the next parliamentary session to leave only populist Bills aimed at winning the votes of the "hardworking classes".

Expensive and contentious legislation, such as the introduction of identity cards and new rules on financing elderly people in nursing homes, has been dropped. Instead, the Government will concentrate on a crackdown on violent crime, benefit fraud and indiscipline in schools.

The pre-election campaign was reinforced by repeated calls for unity at the Conservative conference in Bournemouth, where John Major and Malcolm Rifkind swung the party behind the Cabinet truce on Europe.

The Prime Minister was the star turn of the day as he discarded his jacket for an informal 70-minute question-and-answer session that overshadowed other speakers' policy announcements. His relaxed performance brought back memories of his meet-the-people campaigning style during the 1992 election campaign, which he intends to reproduce next year.

The session pleased party strategists, whose spirits were further lifted as it became clear that the representatives at the conference had no intention of rocking the boat and would have no patience with politicians who did.

Yesterday the appeals for the party to unite behind Mr Major were led by the Cabinet rightwingers Peter Lilley and Michael Portillo, who are happy for the time being to abide by the Prime Minister's wait-and-see approach to a single currency.

Mr Lilley used his speech on benefit fraud to demand an end to bickering, saying he was sick and tired of Conservatives who fuelled the media by sniping at their colleagues. "In two minutes, they can undo all the good work you the party workers have done in a year."

Mr Portillo voiced similar sentiments at a fringe meeting, and in his conference speech today he will tell dissidents to pull their socks up and that the party needs "unity, unity, unity". Kenneth Clarke, the Cabinet's leading pro-European is also expected to steer clear of controversy when he addresses the conference today.

Yesterday Mr Rifkind won the support of the traditionally Euro-sceptic conference for the Cabinet line on a single currency. An early announcement ruling out membership would be unwise, against British interests and jeopardise the future of the City, he said. "To force a decision now just to differentiate ourselves from Labour would be to put party before country and, I suggest, the country would not be impressed."

Mr Major was also applauded when he called for caution. If the single currency went wrong it could "crack wide open the European Union as we have seen it build up over the last 25 years", he said. And while he accepted that he could get "easy applause" by saying Britain would not join, he said: "If I did that and I then had no British voice in this great debate that will affect us, what would I then say to the British nation?"

The Government meanwhile tried to harden the impression that it was ready for a fifth term by promising new laws to make unions who call strikes in monopoly public services liable for damages. Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade, said: "The Government will not stand by and see the public held to economic ransom again."

Mr Lang's plans would probably be put forward in the next Parliament. The coming session will concentrate on populist measures including Michael Howard's crime Bill and Mr Lilley's proposals to give financial incentives to job agencies that help lone mothers into work and a new Bill to give social security officials access to Inland Revenue and benefit agency data to track down fraud.

Gillian Shephard will today announce proposals to allow teachers to impose "reasonable" detention on pupils without their parents' consent, an extension of the time limit for temporary exlusions and a plan to restrict parents' choice of school when their children have been expelled twice.

Matthew Parris, page 2
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PAUL HACKETT/REUTER



Strutting in their shirts: John Major and Brian Mawhinney stand jacketless before the Tory party faithful at Bournemouth yesterday

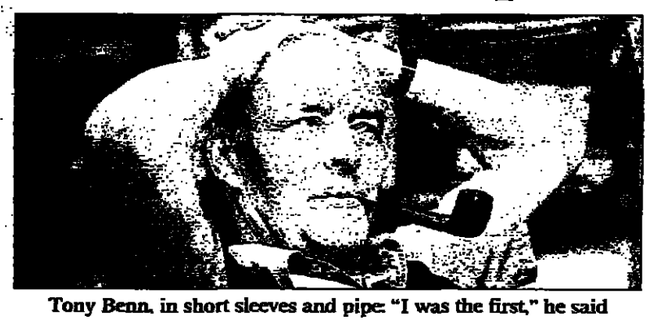
Benn claims the honours as parties get shirty

BY ANDREW PIERCE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BENN, the veteran left wing Labour MP, pioneered the political shirt sleeve look when he started taking his jacket off at public meetings 40 years before John Major and Tony Blair began squabbling over the idea.

Mr Benn, 71, who is equally at ease in a woolly cardigan as he is in a tweed jacket, was unequivocal last night about who was first to adopt the casual approach: "Me. I have been doing it for years," he said.

The Major and Blair offices swapped insults throughout the day after the Prime Minister abandoned his jacket during a question and answer session with activists at the Tory Party conference. Labour accused Mr Major of copying Mr Blair.



Tony Benn, in short sleeves and pipe: "I was the first," he said

Not everyone approves of the casual look now favoured by the party leaders. Lord Callaghan, the former Labour Prime Minister, said: "I would never have done it. I always wore my jacket. It never occurred to me to take it off. It would have been ill-mannered to have done so." Which speaks volumes for what he thought about Tony Benn.

Joe Haines, the Downing Street press secretary to Harold Wilson, was equally emphatic that his former boss would never have sanctioned such a change in sartorial style: "He would have been too worried that his pipe would fall out of the jacket pocket. He always wanted that very close to hand."

Ian Mikardo, the late left-wing MP for Bow and Poplar, was also an early pioneer of the practice. But the spin doctors today would never have allowed him near the television cameras. "He was rather big and sweaty," said a Labour MP.

Lord Hailsham of Marylebone, who served in the Cabinets of four Tory Prime Ministers, was appalled by the development. "Never in my day. Not even in the Cabinet room. I don't think Margaret would have approved either."

London terrorist was IRA man

The IRA named Diarmuid O'Neill, the terrorist suspect who was shot dead by the police in an arms raid in west London last month, as one of its members, describing him as a volunteer.

It added that it had delayed the statement, which will appear in today's issue of the Sinn Fein newspaper, *Republican News*, out of respect for O'Neill's parents. They had asked for privacy at their son's funeral in Co Cork last week, which his Basque girlfriend, Karmele Ereño, attended ..... Page 5

Off his bike

Lord Tebbit, who urged unemployed people to get "on yer bike", said Britain's "cult of ageism" meant job prospects for executives aged 55 or over were bleak ..... Page 25

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Prince consoles Dunblane parents at sombre service

BY ALAN HAMILTON

THE Prince of Wales last night spent an hour in private with the grieving parents of Dunblane after attending a memorial service which took the shattered town one further step out of its darkness.

He met the parents in a church hall next to Dunblane Cathedral after the service commemorating the 16 primary school children and their teacher who were killed by the gunman, Thomas Hamilton. Six hundred bereaved parents, relatives and friends packed the cathedral along with policemen, ambulancemen, nurses, social workers and many others who had attended on the terrible events of March 13 and their aftermath. Yesterday they sought faith and hope, and most had abandoned the black of mourning for less sombre clothes.

But they sat in a void of silence that was often tearful as parents of the murdered children or relatives in cases where the act was too painful, stepped forward to light a candle for each child as the slow litany of their names was read from the pulpit. They lit a larger candle, too, for their dead teacher, Gwenne Mayor. Distantly, a piper played a soft lament.

The Prince, who had been invited to attend by the bereaved, sat in the front row. Close to him sat Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary and Dunblane's MP, and George Robertson, his Labour shadow who has lived in the town for 20 years.

Outside the cathedral the town was deserted and silent, as shops closed out of respect. At the ill-fated primary school, children were sent home at lunchtime.

Inside the cathedral, the Rev Colin McIntosh, its minister, reminded his congregation that they were there not only to remember and celebrate the lives of 16 children and their teacher, but to mark a stage in

Continued on page 2, col 7

Hoax leads to call for press review

BY EMMA WILKINS

LORD WAKEHAM, chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, today calls for an urgent review of newspaper conduct in the wake of the hoax which led *The Sun* to publish faked pictures of Diana, Princess of Wales.

In a letter to *The Times*, Lord Wakeham says the affair raises key issues over invasions of privacy and the use of the defence of public interest by newspapers.

The public as well as the Royal Family are having their confidence in the existing Code of Practice undermined after "a stream of injudicious stories centring on the private lives of public interest figures, backed up only by the flimsiest of public interest defences", he says.

Public figures often choose not to complain in order to protect their children from possible prolonged suffering through an investigation by his commission, but newspapers must not take a lack of complaint as carte blanche to write what they like, he adds.

Calling for co-operation from all newspapers, Lord Wakeham goes on: "I believe we need now to examine all these issues carefully but urgently to see what lessons can be learnt."

Letters, page 21

Absent Estonia hand Scots victory in game that never was

BY KEVIN McCARRA IN TALLINN AND JOHN GOODBODY

THE opposition never stood a chance, principally because they refused to take part. At the Kadriorg Stadium in Tallinn, Estonia, yesterday, Scotland trooped out behind the referee, Miroslav Radoman, and prepared for kick-off in a World Cup qualifier. The other half of the field was empty, however, because Estonia, protesting over a change in the kick-off time, were still in their training camp some 30 miles away.

So it was that Billy Dodds knocked the ball off the centre spot for John Collins, the Scotland captain, to take a few steps forward before the official, with a blast of his whistle, brought the cursory action to an end. It is now expected that FIFA, the sport's governing body, will rule that this was a 3-0 victory for Scotland, although its decision will not be known until November 7.

The only other time that a World Cup qualifying game has been forfeited occurred in 1974. The Soviet Union refused to play their play-off return leg in Chile because they disapproved of the right-wing regime of General Pinochet, who had seized power after a coup. Chile kicked off in the empty stadium in Santiago, ran the ball into the goal and then the referee immediately abandoned the match which was awarded to Chile.

Yesterday's non-events, however, completely failed to unnerve the 600 visiting supporters. "There's only one team in Tallinn," they yelled, and this time the old chant was nothing less than a statement of fact. After the Scotland players left the field, one fan in a kilt ran on and, amid widespread jubilation, put the ball into an unattended net.

Estonians find no cause for merriment. On Tuesday night, Scotland complained about the unsuitability of the floodlights which had been installed for a match with a scheduled kick-off of 6.45pm. FIFA agreed that conditions were unacceptable and at 9am yesterday ruled that the game should begin in daylight at 3pm.

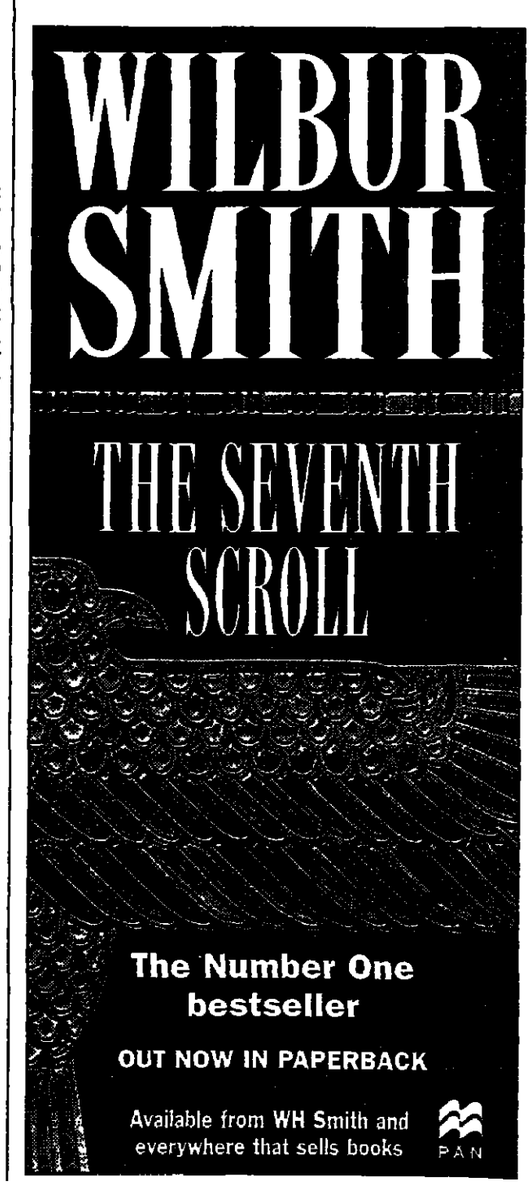
Estonia, refusing to comply, turned up as originally planned at 5pm. A small group of locals cheered, but Scotland had already departed. Somehow the day had brought two teams to an agreed stadium and still failed to produce any football.

World Cup reports, page 48



"I've bought the video of the Scotland goals!"

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Mr Nice and Mr Nasty take their double-act to Bournemouth

John Major's question-and-answer session worked well yesterday at Bournemouth. Hand on hip and shirt in need of tucking, he leaned against the podium as a neighbour might lean on the garden fence, chatting with Tory representatives.

Alongside him, however, the masterful Brian "Don't mess with me" Mawhinney was ill-advised to roll up his sleeves without warning. The intended impression was of chummy informality, but one felt a sudden anxiety that he was about to glass somebody. At least he proved that, contrary to rumour, there were no tattoos.

After lunch, even the Environment Secretary got into the act, proving quite a hit in his new role as Oprah. How long before people start weeping in the aisles? Still, the idea crowned a day which lifted Tory spirits.

Or, rather, *most* Tory spirits. Not Ted Heath's. In aspect and shape, Sir Edward increasingly resembles the cartoonist Giles's "Grandma". On the platform party he contributed an intense localised depression. All through Malcolm Rifkind's cautiously Euro-sceptical speech, Sir Edward — Euro-phile and Euro-Blobby — sat slouched in a total grump, chair pulled back from table. At applause at the name of Margaret Thatcher, he clasped his hands together, immobile, face like frozen puff pastry.

In a separate enclosure sat another Euro-Blobby, Kenneth Clarke. The Chancellor seemed at times to be spilling over into the seat of the much trimmer Michael Portillo.

MATTHEW PARRIS
CONFERENCE SKETCH

Why do all Euro-enthusiasts go pear-shaped? Is federalism fattening? Or does being fat make one a federalist?

Mr Rifkind's speech, read to a subdued audience, was greeted, once over, by sudden wild acclaim. Nobody looked more surprised than the Foreign Secretary himself, who, rooted to the spot, took his standing ovation like some night creature caught in the headlights.

Rifkind, who had made a thoughtful case for unity around the Prime Minister's European compromise, was the beneficiary of his party's huge yearning for a closing of ranks. If a badly stuffed hyena had been wheeled on to the platform and uttered a plea for unity, it would have been received with a standing ovation.

The Tory rank and file want speakers to thump the lectern and bash Brussels bureaucracy: but go further and they get nervous. Peter Lilley judged his audience shrewdly yesterday, offering more anti-EU rhetoric than substance.

The Social Security Secretary gains every year in assurance and poise. This year he was rewarded by the arrival of his wife Gail, who bounded up and planted a smacker on the back of his neck. This is a new kind of conference kiss. Such a kiss is vaguely suggestive without implying an immediate proposition. The Lilleys may have been offering a metaphor for Mr Lilley's approach to his own leadership prospects. Where Michael Heseltine has stroked the Tory thigh, John Redwood grabbed the Tory knickers, as Michael Portillo lunged (last year) at the Tory bra. Peter Lilley was merely, so to speak, kissing the Conservative Party on the back of its neck. For now.

Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, offered his party a courteous handshake.

Young as he is, there is something pleasantly 1960s about Mr Lang. Indeed he offered his own clever impersonation of Harold Macmillan, reciting:

She didn't say Yes and She didn't say No.
She didn't stay Stop and she didn't say Go.
She wanted to climb but she dreaded to fall.
So she bided her time and said nothing at all.

Lang's target was Margaret Beckett. He was not satirising his party's position on a single currency.

Brussels scientist says British BSE forecast doubtful

FROM CHARLES BREMNER AND LEYLA LINTON IN BRUSSELS

A LEADING European expert yesterday cast doubts on British forecasts that "mad cow" disease would die out soon and called for long-term tests using monkeys to establish whether it can be transmitted to human beings. A British scientist who has already transmitted BSE to monkeys said the experiment would be a waste of time.

After a year-long study ordered by the European Commission, Professor Charles Weissmann of Zurich University said there were reasons to doubt the prediction by Oxford scientists that BSE would fall to negligible levels in about five years. "I am not quite sure that one can say that if all the sources of contaminated feed are eliminated that the disease will completely disappear," he said. The Government cited the Oxford forecast as the main reason for its decision last month to suspend a selected slaughter of cattle that was agreed in Florence last June.

Professor Weissmann said it appeared likely that BSE was transmissable to people through the consumption of beef. "The evidence we so far have is sufficiently suggestive of this transmission from cattle to man that we should act as though it were true."

The best way of establishing the facts was to start experiments in which monkeys would be fed increasing doses of BSE-infected tissue, the professor said. The long incubation time meant that the tests would have to be run over a period of ten years. Monkeys were the best means because the "species barrier" was lower between humans and primates than any other animals. "The answer is that it will not be conclusive, but it is the best we can do under the circumstances," he said.

Ross Ridley, who works for the Medical Research Council in Cambridge, showed several years ago that BSE could be passed in the laboratory to marmoset monkeys by injecting infected material directly into their brains. This is thousands of times more effective, as a route for infection, than oral ingestion.

"Both the marmosets we inoculated developed brain disease after about four years," she said. "Subsequent comparisons have shown a resemblance to the pathology seen in human victims of the new variant of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease."

Ms Ridley said she could see no point in the European experiment. "Once you have established what amount is needed, are you going to say that smaller doses do not matter? We have no way of translating a dose that is effective for a monkey into one that is effective for a human."

She added: "We have already shown that BSE can be transmitted to monkeys and hence that humans, if they ate enough, may also be able to get the disease. We have to assume that no dose of BSE is safe."

Ministry accused of trying to hide facts

GOVERNMENT officials tried to conceal crucial information about BSE from independent researchers, the scientific journal *Nature* claimed yesterday (Michael Hornsby writes).

An Agriculture Ministry scientist anonymously accuses the ministry of a "deplorable" lack of openness and the article cites the "uphill struggle" allegedly faced by an Oxford professor in obtaining BSE statistics as evidence of the "culture of secrecy".

The ministry made the statistics available "only after senior officials at the Royal Society put pressure on government ministers", the journal said. The ministry admitted procedures could be "fairly bureaucratic".

JEFF MITCHELL/REUTERS



The Prince and the Rev Colin McIntosh leave the cathedral after the service

Dunblane

Continued from page 1

a journey that they all must make together, towards that peace that they would some day find again.

The theme of light was echoed in a sermon by the Very Rev Professor James Whyte, a former Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, who also preached at the memorial service for the Lockerbie air disaster victims.

"Darkness fell on many families, and indeed on this entire community, on March 13," Professor Whyte said. "Light was turned into darkness. Yet in a memorial service, even after only six months — and six months is a short time in the history of grief — darkness cannot be allowed the last word."

Professor Whyte turned to the candles, flickering brightly on a white-draped table in front of the congregation. "Each of these candles represents a unique human life. The candle is a good symbol, especially for the children. It is small, yet it is a bright, warm light. But the candle is also a symbol of fragility, vulnerability. It is easily snuffed out. Such is our life, and the life of the child."

The service was relayed to three other churches in Dunblane and to the wider world. As it ended, the congregation streamed out into a bright, crisp October afternoon that livened the old stones of Dunblane and seemed to lift a corner of the pall that has hung over the town since March.

In an empty cathedral, the 17 candles flickered and danced. But there was no candle for the 18th victim of the massacre. There are some degrees of wickedness so dark that no mortal can find it in his heart to forgive.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Schools hit by 'white flight'

A confidential Bradford City Council report said white parents shun schools with large Asian intakes, leaving places unfilled. "White flight is a reality," it said. One head teacher said his grammar school will be 50-70 pupils short next September as middle-class white families moved away and ethnic minorities moved in: "a double effect of race and class".

Lawyers on film

The solicitors' profession has produced a promotional video in an attempt to reverse its flagging reputation. The six-minute video will be unveiled tomorrow at the annual Law Society conference in Manchester and may be sent to clients.

Lottery 'thief'

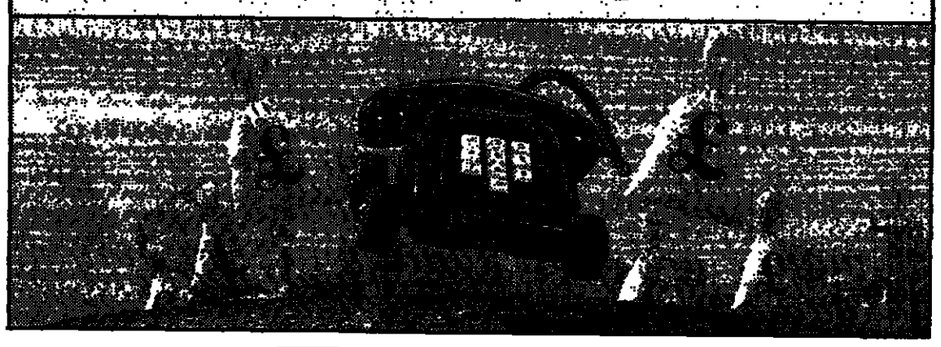
A man who claimed to be a lottery millionaire and gave his money away in Inverness has been linked to a burglary inquiry. West Mercia Police said he fitted the description of a man wanted for stealing thousands of pounds from a house in Kidderminster.

Irish vote rethink

The Irish Government has dropped plans to allow emigrants to vote in elections. Emigrants were to be able to elect three members to the Upper House, but the plan has been dropped because of poor support from countries such as the United States.

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Harvest festival disrupted as choir draws line at singing praises of mid-air refuelling

Choristers walk out in protest at modern hymns

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE choir of a renowned 12th-century Norfolk parish church has been split after members resigned in protest at having to sing in praise of jet planes refuelling in mid-air at the annual harvest festival.

The vicar's three children and a handful of others have been left alone in the choir stalls at St Mary's, Wroxham, known as "the cathedral of the Broads", after Carole Tims, the music director, and 11 choristers walked out after "intemperate words" were exchanged in the vestry.

The discontent began six months ago after the vicar, the Rev Andrew Parsons, 43, introduced new monthly services with the local United Reformed Church congregation and asked the choir to sing. Mrs Tims, a music teacher, felt some of the more modern songs at the services were beneath their choral skills. She felt her choir was already busy enough leading singing at the church's traditional communion and evensong, as well as funerals, weddings and twice-weekly practices.

Two out of eight adult members resigned in protest and 11 children were withdrawn by parents, leaving seven children and a handful of adults.

The dispute reflects growing disharmony throughout the Church as clergy attempt to persuade congregations to accept modern worship methods, often including guitar-led music groups and "hymns" with simple, repetitive and catchy choruses. The problem has been exacerbated in some areas by a shortage of organists, who are often poorly paid for the hours they put in.

Mrs Tims, who has led the choir at St Mary's for six years, said: "Most of the parents are devastated and angry about what has been going on. The choir had 20 young people aged from 9 to 20 and they loved coming to church."

Nick Walmsley, the organist, who has also told the vicar he is "unable to assist" until the dispute is settled, questioned whether Estelle White's *Autumn Days*, from the BBC's *Come and Praise* book, in which God is thanked for refuelling jet planes, should have been used. "As an honorary member of an RAF squadron I know what is involved in mid-air refuelling and these lads need all the praise they can get. But to some in the church it was a little strong."

Nicola Drake, 15, who beat 3,000 other hopefuls to become one of eight finalists in the BBC's 1993 Choirgirl of the Year contest, is one of the 11 withdrawn from the choir.

Debbie Kemp, who withdrew her daughter Imogen, 14, the head chorister, and her three other children, Alex, 13, Katie, 11, and Gavin, 9, said: "They used to sing amazing anthems and choral works. The modern hymns were a step-down from what they were capable of."

Mr Parsons, who has been at St Mary's since 1993, said: "I am very sad that this has come about. This has been brewing for some time. I'm afraid they've been a little inflexible. As a parish church, we have to cater to different people in the community."

He said most hymns used at his church were traditional but the modern hymn at the centre of the controversy was "a firm favourite with the children". He added: "They love singing it. That seemed to me a reasonable justification for having it. It may not be the finest of hymns but it is seasonal and appreciated."

ALBAN DONOHOE



The Rev Andrew Parsons, who said the disputed hymn was a children's favourite

Verses that fuelled revolt in stalls



Carole Tims: walked out

THE hymn the choir objected to, *Autumn Days*, was written by Estelle White about 20 years ago. It is featured in the BBC book *Come and Praise*, which has sold more than three million copies.

The first verse of the four-verse hymn goes:

Autumn days when the grass is jewelled
And the silk inside a chestnut shell,
Jet planes meeting in the air to be refuelled.
All these things I love so well.

Chorus:

So I mustn't forget,
No, I mustn't forget,
To say a great big thank-you,
I mustn't forget.

Other verses rejoice in the smell of bacon, the taste of apple pie and "a win for my home team".

The hymn book's editor, Geoff Marshall-Taylor, said: "It is used at churches where there are a lot of children and vicars want to include something that youngsters will recognise."

Geldof and Yates agree to share child care

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

BOB GELDOF and his former wife, Paula Yates, have agreed to continue sharing the care of their three daughters after a four-day custody hearing in the High Court.

Mark Stephens, the solicitor acting for Miss Yates, read a joint statement last night agreed by Mrs Justice Hale: "Two concerned parents came to court to do what each of them believed was right for their children.

"They have now resolved matters in a way which they both believe to be in the best interests of the children. Bob and Paula have agreed that they will continue to share the care of their children. No further comment can or will be made."

Miss Yates, 36, flew from Australia for the hearing, leaving behind her boyfriend, the rock singer Michael Hutchence, and their two-month-old baby Heavenly Hiraani Tiger Lily.

Mr Geldof, 41, the former Boomtown Rats singer and Live Aid campaigner, applied two weeks ago for the custody of Fifi Trixibelle, 13, Peaches, 9, and Pixie, 4. The request followed the disclosure that drugs squad officers had allegedly discovered opium in a Smarties tube under Miss Yates's bed at the Geldofs' former matrimonial home in Chelsea. The couple left the court separately last night, but earlier Mr Geldof had put his arm around Miss Yates and kissed the top of her head.

Patient tells of drugs and porn on secure ward

BY KATE ALDERSON

MEMBERS of staff on a ward at Ashworth high-security hospital supplied alcohol, drugs and pornographic videos to patients in return for cash, and allowed prostitutes and pimps on to the ward, a court was told yesterday.

Byron Tomlinson, 35, a former patient at the Merseyside hospital, who is standing trial at Liverpool Crown Court accused of falsely imprisoning a psychologist and a fellow patient at knifepoint, alleged that patients had been ordering goods from catalogues and selling them on to staff.

Tomlinson denies holding Laraine el-Jazairi, a psychologist, and Roger Packham, a patient, hostage in the ward's library in June 1994.

He told the court that, during his five months on Owen ward, large quantities of alcohol were brought on to the hospital ward by certain members of nursing staff. He said that cannabis was smoked openly and that there had been a level of collusion between some staff and patients. "On occasions the patients would have prearranged places to pick up drugs and go on shoplifting trips."

In an interview with Detective Sergeant Andrew Donnelly of Merseyside Police, which was read out in court, Tomlinson said that he had arrived on Owen ward in January 1994 and had been threatened by patients and suffered racism because he is black. The court was told that he had witnessed a patient's room being set on fire while another patient was inside it and that he stopped going to therapy sessions because he was afraid his room would be burnt.

During the interview with the police officer, Tomlinson said: "I was extremely paranoid. The ward was out of control. This gang was intimidating me to the extent where I was going over the edge. I couldn't trust the staff because they were in collusion with the gang."

In May 1994 Tomlinson told senior staff at the hospital about his allegations of activities on the ward. Two days before the alleged hostage-taking, he told Dr Zona Crispin, his psychiatrist, specifically about these allegations. This triggered a search of patients' rooms and the ward generally during which some weapons were found and a number of patients, including members of the "gang" Tomlinson referred to, were transferred to another ward. Visits to patients were also cancelled for a day.

The next day, Tomlinson was preparing for a visit from his girlfriend which had been rescheduled from the day before. He was told that the visit had been cancelled and shortly afterwards, it is alleged, he burst into the staff room and took a long-bladed carving knife with which he chased members of staff while issuing threats.

"I never had any intention of hurting anybody," Tomlinson told the court. He said he fled into the library when he saw members of the control and restraint team coming on to the ward. He said that when he saw them he was worried about reports he had read in a newspaper about a prisoner dying after he was restrained and injected. Tomlinson then barricaded himself into the library where Mrs el-Jazairi and Mr Packham were. He told the court: "There was no intention of keeping them there as prisoners. Their presence in the library was saving my life."

The trial continues.

Duchess dismisses suicide reports

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

THE Duchess of York, in an unusual public discussion of her state of mind, denied yesterday that she was suicidal or that the Queen had offered to pay some of her debts in return for custody of her children.

The Duchess, who has an overdraft estimated at £4 million, telephoned a New York newspaper to deny misleading reports picked up by American television and radio from British tabloid newspapers.

She made the call from her mobile phone outside the Royal Albert Hall just before she appeared as a guest presenter at the National Television Awards in London on Tuesday night.

Speaking to a reporter from the *New York Times*, the Duchess said: "I am the grown-up mother of two healthy children. Why on earth would I ever contemplate suicide? The idea of suicide never has and never will come into my head."

A spokesman for the Duchess yesterday confirmed that the quote was accurate. He said that the Duchess had spoken by telephone to the *New York Times* to "set the record straight" after recent newspaper reports that she was depressed.

In her conversation, the Duchess added that "there was no discussion and there won't be" with the Queen about paying the Duchess's debts. Despite similar denials from Buckingham Palace, it has been rumoured that the Queen offered to relieve the Duchess of her financial problems in exchange for a promise of silence and an agreement to live abroad and give up her children.

The Duchess said that she did "not know yet" if she would live abroad in future.

Bookie pays out after pupil's appeal improves exam grade

BY DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A SCHOOLBOY'S appeal against his GCSE French result was more like a stewards' inquiry for his family, who had wagered that he would achieve ten starred-A grades.

Peter and Sylvia Hodson of Great Barr, Birmingham, bet £20 at 5-1 that 16-year-old Tony would get the extra recognition for outstanding work when his results were published in August. The bet was placed for them by John Watterson. Tony's grandfather. The family were dismayed when Tony received nine starred-As and one straight A in French.

He asked the examination board to remark the paper. It admitted a mistake and awarded him the starred-A this week, allowing Mr Watterson to collect £100 from William Hill.

Tony, a pupil of King Edward's School at Edgbaston, Birmingham, is now studying for A levels in English, history and French. He said: "My parents put on the bet in April as an incentive to make me work harder. But when my results came through I was really shocked.

"Of all the exams I was expecting an A-star in, I expected one in French because it's my best subject. I'd heard about people demanding remarks, so I thought, 'It's worth £100 — why not?'"

The betting shop manager, Bryan Buckley, 34, said: "We didn't honestly expect to pay out on it. I know the school has got a good reputation, but I didn't think ten out of ten was humanly possible."

Graham Sharpe, a spokesman for the bookmaker, said it was increasingly wary of bets on examination grades because so many were won by students gaining extra motivation from the wager.

Tony's parents plan to spend the winnings on their son, who wants to be a sports journalist.

Sylvie Guillem has a way of dancing around tradition.

Her suppleness is legendary. Her command over those incredibly long limbs means that every performance evokes gasps from audiences around the world.



However, Sylvie Guillem is the first to point out that the exceptionally lithe body with which she has been gifted is a blessing in disguise: "You must work on this gift so that it does not become a defect."

That is why she constantly strives to push her performances beyond technique pure and simple. "After that, you work on something else: how to express things. I want people to remember me as a dancer who tells a story with her body." In pursuit of this aim, Mlle. Guillem frequently finds herself in conflict with the traditions and rules of classical ballet.

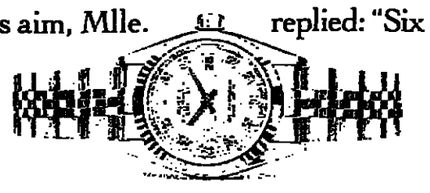
"I have a way of being able to walk around tradition if it gets in my way."

Nevertheless, the classical form of her Rolex Oyster earns nothing but admiration.

"It is a beautiful watch. I fell in love with it."

Notice the pose that Sylvie Guillem has chosen to adopt for her picture. Just like her Rolex, it combines elegance and balance with supreme technical ability. The photographer paused for a moment to enquire what this ballet position is called. With a smile, Mlle. Guillem replied: "Six o'clock. Precisely."

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هكذا من الأصل

Students threaten to quit Belfast if violence escalates

By Nicholas Watt
Chief Ireland Correspondent

STUDENTS at The Queen's University of Belfast said yesterday that they would abandon their studies if full-scale sectarian violence returned to Northern Ireland. Protestant and Roman Catholic undergraduates, who together condemned the resumption of IRA terrorism, said that the university's harmonious atmosphere would be destroyed by tit-for-tat violence.

Queen's, which has played host to key events in Northern Ireland from the civil rights campaign of the 1960s to President Clinton's visit last year, was transformed by the IRA and loyalist ceasefires. Cross-community groups, which used to be of marginal interest, attracted wide support among students who had few friends across the divide until they arrived there. Senior members of the students' union now fear these groups may dwindle.

Students from outside Northern Ireland, who were put off studying in Belfast by the seemingly endless cycle of violence, came to the university in droves during the upbeat period after the ceasefires in 1994. Those from Britain and the Irish Republic are now thinking seriously about leaving.

A group of students from Dundalk, Co Louth, in the Irish Republic, said yesterday that they would go home if sectarian violence returned. Gareth Steen, 18, who has just started an undergraduate course in psychology, said: "If it gets really bad I would consider going back down South. I was horrified and shocked by the IRA bomb. I really don't want the whole thing to start again."



Brannigan: he may return to the South

His comments were echoed by Ciaran Brannigan, 18, who enrolled at Queen's last year with six classmates from Dundalk. Mr Brannigan, who applied to study politics and social history at Queen's after the ceasefires, said: "Everyone's spirits have been deflated by the bomb and the troubles over the summer. It is sad because there was such a great atmosphere here during the ceasefires when everyone was so happy."

Students from Northern Ireland said they dreaded the prospect of renewed violence, although they said they would not leave the university. A Protestant and a Roman Catholic who struck up a friendship after enrolling on the university's undergraduate Spanish course last month said they were despondent, although they insisted that all hope was not lost.

Karen Cuddy, 22, and Sinead McNally, 20, who are both from Belfast, said that politicians should put the bombs behind them and press ahead with the search for peace. Ms McNally said: "If there are kids fighting over a ball in the playground a teacher will force them to share the ball. Why can't we treat our politicians in the same way? They have got to learn to live together in Northern Ireland."

Their despondency was echoed in the students' union building opposite the main redbrick Victorian campus of the university. Nigel O'Connor, the vice-president, said he was in a mood of "despondency, despair and depression". He said he feared for the cross-community groups at the university. "The barricades could now go up with the imminent possibility of the loyalist ceasefire breaking."

ALAN LEWIS



Karen Cuddy, left, and Sinead McNally made friends across the sectarian divide

Police trace cars in barracks attack

By Nicholas Watt

IRA terrorists planned the double car bomb attack at the Army's Northern Ireland headquarters up to four months ago, the RUC said yesterday.

A Volvo estate car used to carry the second bomb into Thiepval barracks in Lisburn, Co Antrim, was sold on June 4. Another Volvo used in the attack was bought from a garage in the Lisburn area on July 3.

Police yesterday issued a photofit of a heavily disguised man who bought a blue Volkswagen Passat last month for use as the getaway vehicle. The suspect, who is 40 and had a black beard, dark hair and black-rimmed glasses, bought the vehicle at a car auction on the outskirts of Belfast on September 23, exactly two weeks before the attack. Police recovered the burnt-out vehicle at Poleglass, near Lisburn, within hours of the explosions on Monday.

As police released details of the IRA attack, four lower-sixth pupils whose playing fields were showered with shrapnel called on the IRA to ends its campaign. The teenagers, who were at Wallace High School when the explosions happened, described the bombs as "blasts from the past". Their statement said: "We have been described as tomorrow's generation. But by tomorrow our thirst for peace could be sacrificed by the relentless pursuit of political ends by a violent minority in our community."

The pupils said that younger children were on the fields as the bombs exploded. "Bombs do not discriminate. The pupils on the playing fields were of all creeds and colours. Bombs do not ask questions. They silence them. If you feel as we do, do not be silenced, stand up and be counted."



Suspect who bought Lisburn getaway car

IRA behaves like Nazis, says Bruton

By Audrey Magee, Ireland Correspondent

JOHN BRUTON compared the IRA's tactics to those of the Nazis yesterday. The Irish Prime Minister also accused the paramilitaries of cynically betraying the peace process in Northern Ireland.

Condemning the IRA for Monday's double bomb attack on the British army base in Lisburn, Co Antrim, Mr Bruton said that the IRA seemed intent on using violence when it suited its political objectives. "Those are the classic tactics of the National Socialists and Fascists during the 1920s and 1930s," he told the Irish parliament.

The Prime Minister said: "The Lisburn bombing is a cynical betrayal by the IRA of the peace process. The IRA have now completed a terrible triangle. We have had the IRA bombings in Britain, we had an IRA murder in the Irish Republic, and now we have had IRA bombings — without notice — in Lisburn."

He questioned whether the IRA had modified its strategy during attempts by other parties to negotiate a peace. "Is the Armalite in one hand and the ballot box in the other the unchanged and unchanging political strategy of the republican movement?" The Irish State could not be held hostage to tactical IRA manoeuvres, he added.

Mr Bruton's condemnation of the paramilitaries was echoed by opposition leaders in parliament. Today a parliamentary debate will take place to press home the message that violence has no support in the Republic.

Mother is charged over baby son's death

By Kathryn Knight

THE daughter of a millionaire businessman attended court yesterday to face a new charge of killing her newborn son.

Emma Gifford, 21, had originally been charged with concealing the birth in April. But after spending months on police bail she was charged with infanticide during the ten-minute hearing at Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court in central London. The new charge carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment. She also still faces the original charge.

Miss Gifford, from Ashford, Kent, is the daughter of Michael Gifford, who retired as chief executive of the Rank Organisation leisure group last year.

The new charge follows the discovery of a baby's body in a freezer at a flat belonging to Miss Gifford's father in South Kensington, west London.

Miss Gifford was freed on unconditional bail until her next court appearance on November 13.



Gifford: two charges

Rapist who interrogated his victim given life

By Joanna Bale

A RAPIST who cross-examined his victim in court for six days about the intimate details of her ordeal was given two life sentences at the Old Bailey yesterday.

Ralston Edwards, whose victim waived her right to anonymity to campaign for a change in the law to prevent other women going through the same experience, was found in pre-sentence reports to have no signs of mental illness.

He was told by Judge Ann Goddard, who presided over his trial in August: "You have not shown the slightest sign of remorse but I do not add one day to your sentence because you contested the charges or defended yourself."

The attack on Julia Mason, who was not in court, had blighted her life, said Judge Goddard, who imposed a minimum sentence of 12 years' imprisonment.

Edwards, 43, was found guilty of twice raping Miss Mason during a 16-hour ordeal in which she was held prisoner in his flat in Catford, south London. He had a series of previous convictions for rape and violent assaults on women.

Miss Mason said that, during his cross-examination of her in August, Edwards was "reliving the rape moment by moment" and that it was like being raped all over again.

After the case Miss Mason's boyfriend, Billy Powers, said: "From day one, she wanted the law changed. Hopefully that will now happen speedily."



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Official figures on family spending show richest 20 per cent earn ten times as much as poorest

Nanny and a third car are signs of top earners

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A NANNY, a third family car and a well-stocked wine cellar are the status symbols of Britain's highest earners, according to the Government's survey on family spending.

Although the poverty gap has narrowed slightly in the past two years, the wealthiest 20 per cent of homes still enjoy ten times as much weekly income as the poorest 20 per cent — £875 compared with £84.

The best clue to a family's wealth today is how often they can afford to dine out. The richest, those whose income is at least £759 a week, spend £1,100 a year on meals in restaurants and cafés, almost three times the national average. The poorest, those who live on less than £82 a week, spend £1.40 a week eating out.

The richest 10 per cent of families spend an average of £730 a year on women's clothing, £550 on men's clothing, £830 on televisions, videos, computers and audio equipment, £1,100 on foreign holidays and £680 on cash gifts and donations.

They still choose to spend their money on the traditional symbols of privilege, spending six times as much on education as the average family and four times as much on medical insurance. One of the surest signs of a very high income is a nanny or au pair. The richest Britons spend four times as much on domestic help and childcare as the rest of the population.

Only 25 per cent of the richest households manage with one car, 55 per cent have two and 18 per cent insist on having three. Yet a third of all British families have no car at all. The very rich spend an average of £390 a year on wines, more than three times as much as the rest of the population. The poorest homes prefer spirits and liqueurs to wine.

The wealthiest families were spending up to £800 a week on child care and domestic help, £410 on private education, £180 on restaurant meals and £83 on health insurance, according to the Office for National Statistics. They put £58 a week into life assurance and pension funds and £17 into savings and investments.

However, the largest proportion of their earnings is clawed back by the State: they face average weekly bills of £230 income tax and £43 National Insurance to help to support the many families who rely on social security.

Thirty years ago only 8.4 per cent of people's income came from welfare benefits. Today, 14 per cent of family income comes from the State. The bottom fifth of the population receives 82 per cent of its income from social security.

The annual Family Expenditure Survey questioned 6,800 households. The results help to form the weekly basket of goods used to compile the inflation figures. Food remained the biggest expense, with the average weekly bill rising by 5 per cent to £53, followed by housing which rose by 4 per cent to £48.

One of the biggest spending increases was on personal services including jewellery, cosmetics and medicines. Families now spend £12 a week, a rise of 7 per cent.

There were striking regional differences, with the Northern Irish spending most on bread, tobacco and women's clothing but the lowest on alcohol. Families in the North of England spent the most on meat pies. Shoppers were already buying less beef before the Health Secretary's admission that there could be a link between "mad cow" disease and its human equivalent. In the last quarter of 1995, households were spending £1.52 on beef compared with £1.89 a year earlier.

☐ *Family Spending* (Stationery Office, £35.95).

Nanny state, page 17

OF RICHER AND POORER

The wealthiest homes tend to consist of three people, headed by a 45-year-old: typically, a two-earner family with one child. Although 76 per cent of them are salary earners, a high proportion — 11 per cent — are self-employed.

The poorest households tend to consist of one adult with an average age of 58, renting their home from the local authority: typically a redundant, separated man or woman in a council flat. Although their income is less than £82 a week, they spend £88 and look doomed to be in debt.

The richest families, however, were spending £620 a week. In most parts of the country, the average family spent £290 per week, a rise of £6 or 2 per cent from last year. Only in the South East did people spend much more, typically £322. Average weekly income rose by 3.2 per cent to £381.

PETER TREVNOR



Former nannies Samantha Franey, left, and Gabriella Vianello warn their staff against over-amorous fathers

From Mary Poppins to status symbol

BY BILL FROST

SHARPLY aware of her enhanced social standing as late 20th-century status symbol, today's top-drawer nanny expects a package of terms and conditions that Mary Poppins would never recognise.

A £13,000 tax-paid salary apart, she demands her own flat with private telephone line if living with her employers, sole use of a car and a mobile telephone. Taking out the rubbish is not among her duties, nor is submitting to any sexual demands made by the man of the house. She does not suffer fools gladly either. Too much advice on bringing up the children from their mother is likely to end with a walkout and a blacklisting for the family.

Samantha Franey, co-director of the Dulwich Nanny Agency in southeast London, said that one of the most common problems encountered by her young women was the over-amorous father. "I am afraid it is not at all unusual. You know the sort of thing ... secret love letters and flowers. As a former nanny myself I know what happens and it is all very awkward. Recently one of our girls had to do a moonlight flit. She was working for a single father who had become very fond of her. He is blacklisted now, of course."

Tired of taking orders, Ms Franey, 29, set up the agency with Gabriella Vianello, another former nanny, 2½ years ago. They have 6,000 young women on their books and as many again employed here and abroad.

"It is a very attractive package for a young woman," Ms Vianello, 28, said. "The salary — anything up to £13,000 a year — is tax-free. In the case of domestic staff the Inland Revenue expects the employer to pay tax and the National Insurance contributions."

The agency's clients include barristers, solicitors, diplomats and captains of industry. "Life is good in the lap of luxury. However, the rich can treat a nanny like a piece of furniture and not, as it should be, one of the family. They are so engrossed in their work that they just expect everything to be done. They fail to realise that for people in their position a nanny is not just a status symbol but a necessity."

The young women are handpicked and must satisfy a lengthy checklist. All must hold qualifications in child care, be non-smokers and be ready to deal with any domestic emergency.

"Some duties are unacceptable, though," Ms Vianello said. "Rich people are far more likely to take advantage of nannies than the middle classes." Apart from taking out the rubbish, "working overtime is not acceptable when the nanny is not paid for it. We have had to let employers go for that."

Ms Vianello and Ms Franey both agree that today's nanny will not stay in the job too long if she has any ambition. "The life may be attractive to young women but they will get sick and tired of being given orders on bringing up children by someone who knows far less than they do about the subject."

Ulster pubs to open all day on Sunday

BY A STAFF REPORTER

PROPOSALS bringing Northern Ireland's licensing laws in line with those of Britain were announced by the Government yesterday.

All-day opening on Sunday and longer opening hours for off-licences are among changes proposed by Malcolm Moss, the Northern Ireland Office Minister.

Pubs in the Province are currently limited to two sessions on Sunday with a break in between. Off-licences must shut at 9pm during the week and are not allowed to open on Sundays. As well as longer opening hours, children will be allowed into pubs provided they are with an adult.

Premises allowed to serve alcohol will be extended to include guest houses and conference centres. The ban on restaurants having a bar will also be lifted.

The proposals were announced after a two-month consultation period during which more than 700 responses were received from members of the public and licensees. Announcing the outcome, Mr Moss said that he had agreed to abandon a draft proposal for a system of penalty points to deal with clubs that breached licensing laws. He hoped that the proposals would come before Parliament "in the near future".

Quarter of Britons' wine 'comes from Calais'

BY A STAFF REPORTER

MORE than a quarter of wine drunk in this country is bought in Calais and one in eight bottles of spirits is purchased by cross-border shoppers, according to a survey by the drinks industry.

The figures were criticised, however, by Customs and Excise which said that the survey by the Wines and Spirits Association had been based on a single day. Customs' figures, based on interviews with 48,000 drivers at ports this summer, suggested that about one in eight bottles of wine and one in 13 of spirits are bought abroad.

Customs said that the annual loss to the taxpayer is about £60 million on spirits, £110 million on wine and £40 million on beer. The association said that the figures represented a loss of £145.36 per car for the Exchequer. It calculated the total shortfall, including other ferry routes but excluding beer and the Channel Tunnel, at £573.1 million, about 10 per cent of the Exchequer's total income from excise duty on drink.

The survey said that the number of vehicles arriving at Dover without alcohol is one in 50, compared with one in five last year. The association is pressing the Government for a gradual reduction in duty to bring the United Kingdom into line with France.

Poster 'dehumanising'

POSTERS promoting a new Harvey Nichols store in Leeds have been criticised by the city council as being degrading to women (Carol Midgley writes).

The posters show the models Jodi Kidd and Susie Bick wearing a collar and dog lead alongside the slogan "Harvey Nichols Leeds (not follows)". Doreen Lewis, deputy chairwoman of the council's women's committee, who has asked the council to complain to the Advertising Standards Authority, said that the image suggested women needed to be kept under control. "It's not simply degrading, it's dehumanising."

A spokeswoman for the store said the dog leads were simply a pun on the city's name. "We would never be involved in anything setting out to degrade women."

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Briton wins share of Nobel prize for Buckyball find

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE discovery of a form of carbon shaped like a football won a Nobel prize for Professor Harry Kroto of Sussex University yesterday. He shares the £700,000 chemistry prize with two American colleagues, Robert Curl and Richard Smalley of Rice University in Houston, Texas.

In 1985, the scientists discovered a form of carbon in which 60 atoms are linked together to form a sphere. Because of its resemblance to the geodesic domes of the American architect Buckminster Fuller, they named it buckminsterfullerene, today usually shortened to fullerene, or "Buckyballs".

It was an astonishing discovery. Carbon is the basis of life and its chemistry the most studied of all the elements, yet nobody had ever suspected it existed in this form.

"It's a fundamental discovery," Salo Gronowitz, chairman of the Nobel committee for chemistry, said. "You can practise a lot of new chemistry with these balls, and we are on the way to discovering lots of different applications."

The discovery is a classic example of scientists following their own instincts. Professor Kroto was interested in identifying the substance responsible for a mysterious signal that could be detected coming from interstellar dust. His approach was to try to create complex carbon molecules in the laboratory, measure their spectra, and match them with those coming from space. Using equipment at Rice, the three men created a stable form of carbon with 60 atoms.

In trying to work out a structure, Professor Kroto was inspired by a cardboard kit representing the stars he had once put together for his children. It was made up of pentagons and hexagons linked together.

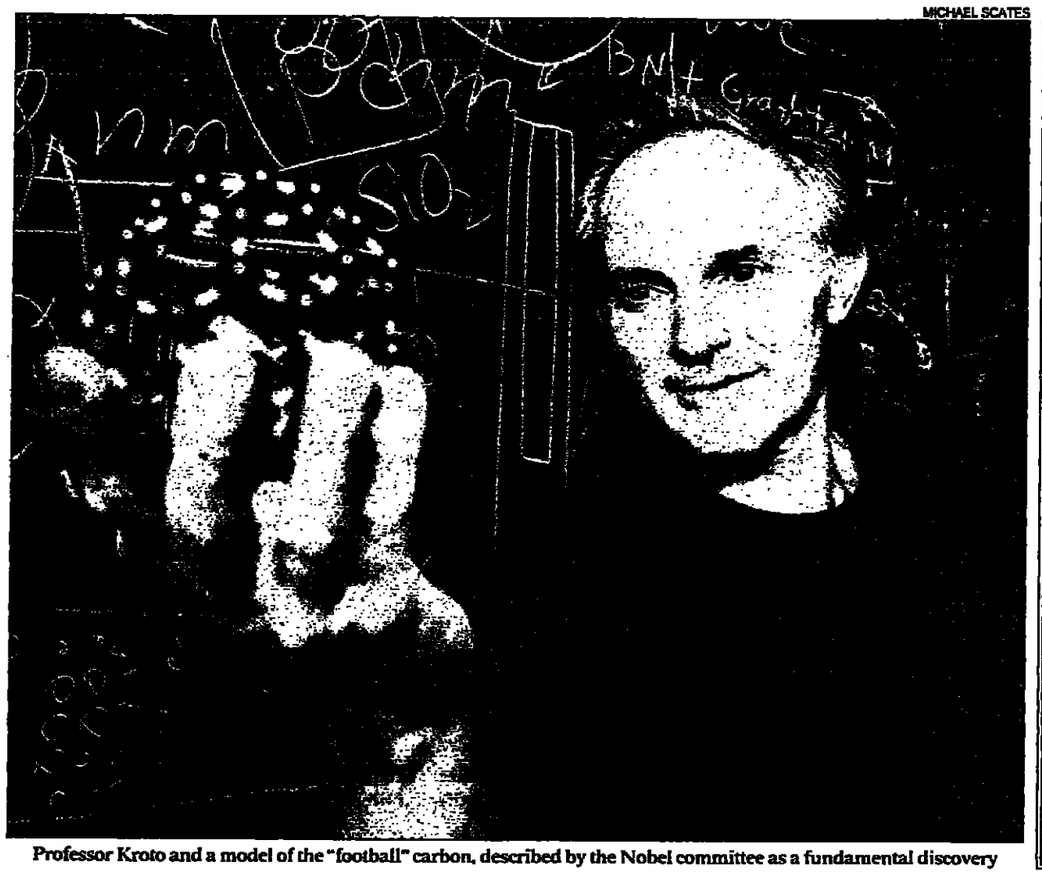
Dr Smalley assembled such a structure and found it had 60 vertexes. Only when it was finished did they realise that it was exactly like a football, which is made up of 20 white hexagons and 12 black pentagons stitched together.

"This is the greatest day of my life. It's fantastic," Professor Kroto said yesterday. "A lot of great scientists don't even dream about this."

He said the discovery might be used in many different ways, in drugs, superconductors and a whole new branch of chemistry. "Scientists should have discovered fullerenes 40 years ago but just didn't make the right calculations."

The prize for physics was awarded to Drs David Lee and Robert Richardson of Cornell University in New York and Dr Douglas Osheroff of Stanford University in California for the discovery of superfluid helium, a breakthrough in low-temperature physics.

MICHAEL SCATES



Professor Kroto and a model of the "football" carbon, described by the Nobel committee as a fundamental discovery

SATURDAY
IN THE TIMES

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Top poetry awards are split three ways

BY A STAFF REPORTER

THE Forward Poetry Prizes, Britain's most valuable annual poetry awards, went yesterday to John Fuller, Kate Clanchy and Kathleen Jamie.

The prize for the best collection went to Fuller's *Stones and Fires*; best first collection to Clanchy's *Slattern*; and the Tolman Cunard Prize for best single poem to Jamie's *The Graduates*. They shared the total prize money of £16,000. The judges included Alan Jenkins, poet and deputy editor of the *Times Literary Supplement*, Penelope Fitzgerald, a former Booker prizewinner, and Alastair Niven, director of literature at the Arts Council. The announcement coincides with National Poetry Day today.

To mark the day and the tenth anniversary of Child Line, the children's charity has produced an album of some of the English language's best-loved verse read by prominent actors. The CD, at £7.99, and the cassette, at £6.99, go on sale in shops today.

Leading article, page 21

Golf club lifts ban on adopted children

BY EMMA WILKINS

THE family of a 13-year-old boy who was banned from a golf tournament because he is adopted was celebrating yesterday after the club reversed its decision.

Audrey Briggs and her son Laurie plan to play in next year's family foursomes competition at Burhill Golf Club, near Walton-on-Thames, Surrey. "We are absolutely delighted," June Brown, Mrs Briggs's mother, said from the family home in West Kirby, Merseyside.

A club spokesman said: "The club has reconsidered the conditions of entry for next year and they have now been altered to accommodate adopted children."

Vince Dean, the club captain, said: "In view of the very strong reaction from the public, I have taken it up with the management company of Burhill Golf Club. Our priority will be to ask Audrey Briggs and her son to come back and play next year." An unnamed competitor had complained, citing the rule on adopted offspring.

THE TIMES / DILLONS FORUM

Gorbachev: Why I did what I did

Your chance to question his policies

As President of the Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev set in motion some of the most far-reaching events in 20th-century history. It was his vision that led, ultimately, to the demolition of the Berlin Wall and the collapse of communism in the East.



Times readers can hear his account of these and other vital episodes in his life at a *Times* / Dillons forum on Tuesday, October 29. In conversation with Timothy Garton Ash, the celebrated chronicler of the end of communism in Eastern Europe, Mr Gorbachev will discuss, through an interpreter, his remarkable career, and answer questions from the audience.

The forum, marking publication of Mr Gorbachev's *Memoirs* (Doubleday, £25), will be held at Westminster Central Hall, London SW1, at 7.30pm.

Tickets at £10 (concessions £7.50), which include £3 off the price of Mr Gorbachev's book, are available by phoning 0171-467 1613, by faxing the coupon below to 0171-467 1690, or by sending the coupon, with your remittance, to Dillons, 82 Gower Street, London WC1E 6EQ, where tickets can also be bought.

THE TIMES / DILLONS FORUM

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Tories given the common touch in revamp of Prime Minister's 1992 soap-box campaign

Major to consider sale of Tube and Royal Mail

BY ALICE THOMSON
POLITICAL REPORTER

BOURNEMOUTH 1996

THE Prime Minister said yesterday that he was considering privatising the London Underground and the Royal Mail.

On the day of the Dunblane memorial service, John Major also promised a "clear-cut and firm decision" on the ownership of handguns after Lord Cullen inquiry's into the massacre had reported. The disclosures came during an unprecedented 75-minute question-and-answer session held by the Prime Minister with 3,000 Tories at their party conference.

As the Prime Minister stood on the stage with his party chairman, Brian Mawhinney, ladies in fuschia pink jackets shepherded activists to microphones. Mr Major had decided at the last minute not to sit on a stool but to stand by the podium. Behind him the stage was flooded in pink light. The Prime Minister and Mr Mawhinney soon took off their jackets. The session was meant to repeat the success of Mr Major's soap-box style in the 1992 election campaign.

The questioners had not, party aides promised, been planted. They were different from the polished parliamentary candidates who troop up to the party conference platform in debates, to proclaim undying love for the leader. They were mostly middle-aged women who devote their weekends to constituency work. They may have asked tricky questions but the atmosphere was cosy rather than combative.

The first questioner urged Mr Major to consider privatising the London Underground and Royal Mail, after this summer's strikes. Mr Major said: "We are looking to make the Post Office more efficient. Whether that means full-scale privatisation or introducing more private capital has still to be determined." He agreed to consider if the principle of privatisation could also be applied to the London Underground, saying it had been a great success on the railways.

A nurse, "Conservative, black and British and proud of all three", urged the Prime Minister to show ethnic minorities that it was worth while voting Conservative. Mr Major emphasised that he wanted more people from ethnic minorities to realise they were "welcome in my Conservative Party" and to stand for elected office or become peers. "They have the same rights as every other British citizen. And in me they have a Prime Minister that will stand up for them."

"Equality of people in this country, equality of opportunity and choice, whether people are black or white or brown . . . is the most instinctive part of the core of what I believe in in politics," he said.

Questioned on what the Government would do with "the idle scroungers and the abusers of our welfare system", Mr Major beamed, and paid tribute to Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, who had done "more to draw down unreasonable dependency on the state than anybody for a very long time". Mr Lilley's speech and his own later in the week would scare off the scroungers.

Told that working Tories wanted to pay less tax, Mr Major quipped: "Hands up, those who think I'm going to tell you what's in the Budget. I can tell you that we Tories are by instinct tax-cutters."

Another questioner wanted to know why criminals sentenced to life imprisonment, did not then spend the rest of their lives behind bars. Mr Major praised his Home Secretary, Michael Howard, for being "the toughest man on crime". Mr Major recalled that, when he had been in his late teens, his flat had been burgled. It must be "so much worse" for older people who had perhaps had irreplaceable mementos stolen and whose homes had been violated. Legislation would be introduced next month for tougher sentences for those who repeatedly committed burglary.

Only a couple of questioners touched on the most contentious issue of the conference: the European single currency. None mentioned "sleaze".

Mr Major said he could earn "easy applause" from many by immediately ruling out Britain's membership of a single currency. But he added, to applause, "If I did that, and I then had no British voice in this great debate that will affect us, what will I say to the British nation when they say to me 'Prime Minister, how can can protect or advance our British position if you have unilaterally ruled yourself out of the discussions upon something that will affect us and affect the whole of Europe?' "

To sustained applause, he promised that if a future Tory cabinet decided it wanted to enter a single currency, there would be a referendum on whether to go ahead.

A questioner challenged Mr Major, as a "compassionate parent", to condemn the private ownership of handguns, saying "Surely the right of a child to live is more important than the right of a man to hold a gun". The Prime Minister insisted he could not comment until the Cullen's report was published.

Mr Major was urged to get the message across to voters that while the Tories would unite the United Kingdom, Labour would tear it apart. He replied to loud applause: "It would be easy if this party stopped conducting an internal debate with itself and began conducting a debate with the electorate and the Labour Party."

Mr Major's "fireside" jokes included one of his favourite anecdotes, about the time President Yeltsin came to stay, in track-suit and trainers. Mr Yeltsin's security man banged on the locked door of a pub near Chequers, shouting: "It's the President of Russia." A disembodied voice inside replied: "And I'm the Kaiser."

Peter Stothard, page 20

KIERAN DOHERTY/REUTER



Shirt sleeves and showmanship: John Major and Brian Mawhinney holding court before the party conference at Bournemouth yesterday

Fresh element in an otherwise bland, traditional structure

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Party conferences will never be the same again after John Major's 75-minute *tour de force* yesterday. The format of the question-and-answer session suited his particular skills and personality. Mr Major is always better in informal exchanges than in delivering formal set-piece speeches. But the success of the session also underlined how party conferences have changed, and are changing.

This year's conference guide includes black-and-white photographs of times past — the conferences in Blackpool in 1954 and Bournemouth in 1955. As the guide points out, "40 years ago everyone appeared to be sitting on the platform", rather like a middle-aged choral society. There was no hint of stage design or the elaborate sets in which the party managers take such pride. These appeared in the mid-1980s as Labour revamped its image and Harvey Thomas applied his presentational skills to the Tories. The transformation has continued in stages since then: the sets have got ever bigger, the back projection screens larger, and the music louder.

But the structure of Tory conferences has otherwise changed little. Bland motions have been chosen for debate. These have essentially been opportunities for ministers to make announcements and to play to the crowd. The votes at the end have been irrelevant. Only rarely has controversy surfaced on the conference floor: for instance, during the 1992 debates on Europe and the economy. The main arguments have been on the fringe. That does not mean that the conference is irrelevant. Not only are ministers keen to enhance their reputations, but they want to deal with anticipated or actual grassroots discontent. That is why the Treasury dreads party conferences. They normally result in additions to public spending, though seldom on the scale of the promise to build 300,000 houses that Harold Macmillan was forced to concede in response to conference pressure in 1950.

Nonetheless, conferences have risked appearing bland. Tory officials who visited the Republican convention at San Diego in August were struck by the success of the informal Oprah Winfrey-style walkabout by Liddy Dole. But their main motives have been to inject variety into the format and to draw attention back to the conference hall from the fringe. The questions to Mr Major, though not fixed beforehand, were hardly testing, but the result underlined the carefully cultivated mood of harmony this week.

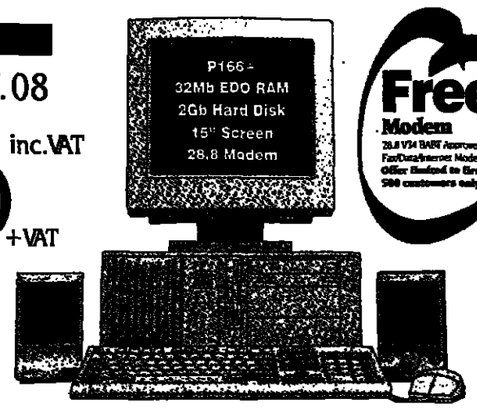
One incidental result, and of similar sessions with Stephen Dorrell and John Gummer, is to involve far more grassroots Tory members. Up to 20 made points, compared with often just half a dozen speakers in debates. In a pre-election year, the conference is mainly used to showcase parliamentary candidates. Labour and the Liberal Democrats did the same. Such question-and-answer sessions have to be used sparingly. They are not the right format for making detailed announcements, as Michael Howard and Peter Lilley did, or for authoritative policy statements, as Malcolm Rifkind made in the best speech of the conference so far. And Mr Major will still be delivering the usual end-of-conference speech.

The other parties face parallel dilemmas. Labour has for long highlighted its frontbench spokesmen at the expense of trade union time-servers on the national executive. But as its annual conference has become more predictable, endorsing leadership-initiated policies, there will be pressure for similar innovations. Tony Blair has done well when questioned by Labour members round the country last year on the rewriting of Clause Four and, more recently, over the party's pre-manfiesto. Perhaps, the party leaders should take a risk and allow themselves to be questioned by ordinary voters during the election campaign.

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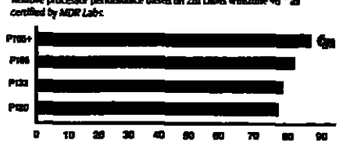


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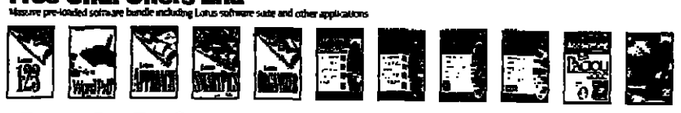
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IN BRIEF

Road tax evaders to be clamped

Car tax dodgers could soon have their vehicles clamped, Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, said yesterday. He said a pilot scheme in London had recovered £2 million and had proved the only successful method for tax evaders, and cleared the streets of old, unwanted bangers. He was unable to give details of when the scheme will be extended or which areas would be affected first.

Porcine protest

Eight pigs wearing Tory rosettes joined a GMB union protest outside the conference. The union said the pigs symbolised years of Tory "greediness and sleaze", and that Tory "snouts" had been in the trough for too long.

Today's business

Morning: Virginia Bottomley on national heritage, Michael Portillo on defence, and Kenneth Clarke on the economy. Afternoon: Gillian Shephard on education and employment will be followed by Michael Heseltine.

On the fringe

Today's speakers include: Norman Lamont (Selsdon Group); Michael Forsyth (Conservative Way Forward); Alan Clark and David Willetts (Bow Group) Lord Parkinson (Politeia); Malcolm Rifkind (Centre for Policy Studies).

Rifkind warns against snap decision on EMU

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND JAMES LANDALE



Rifkind: country must come before the party

MALCOLM Rifkind urged senior colleagues yesterday to put national interests before party politics in the dispute over a single currency.

The Foreign Secretary made it clear that the Government would not be forced into an early announcement on whether to rule out entry into monetary union. In a speech that was well received by a generally Euro-sceptic conference audience, Mr Rifkind tried to push political argument to the sidelines by emphasising the economic risks of making a snap decision.

He said that an early announcement against joining a single currency would be "unwise and against Britain's national interests" and could jeopardise the future of the City. He took a more moderate stance than he did in his Zurich speech last month, when he gave a warning that a single currency could provoke deep division throughout Europe.

Instead he tackled head-on the Euro-sceptics, who have pressed ministers to rule out Britain's entry into a single currency as a way of distinguishing the party from Labour. "To force a decision now just to differentiate ourselves from Labour would be to put party before country and, I suggest, the country would not be impressed. If the issue were forced now, it would be like standing on the edge of a cliff expecting to benefit if one takes a great leap forward." However, Mr Rifkind gave no indication over the timing of a decision, leaving open the possibility of ruling out Britain's entry in the first wave before the general election.

In an attempt to dampen down Euro-scepticism within the party, he said that the Tories must not set themselves up as anti-European in the run-up to the general election. "We must be part of the debate about the future of our continent and we must conduct that debate relying on traditional values of fairness, tolerance and of clarity of vision."

Activists overwhelmingly backed the Government's "wait and see" policy on a single currency and made pleas for unity. Many attacked the Euro-sceptic rebels for being prepared to allow party divisions to make a Labour victory more likely.

Adrian Blair, of Oxford University Conservative Association, said the rebels were prepared to risk higher unemployment and Britain's position as the enterprise centre of Europe. "They are prepared to risk all of that for the pathetic, egotistical kick they seem to get out of going on television and going against the government line on Europe."

Penny Harbour, chairman of the West Midlands Women's Association, said: "It would be crazy to rule out a single currency now. When negotiating for anything, the last thing you do is to close off your options . . . If we are to win we must be single-minded."

She was heckled by a small section of the audience as she continued: "However, there seem to be some people in the party more concerned with winning personal arguments than winning the general election. We must cease our arguing and bickering over Europe. What gain is there in winning the battle and losing the war? We know the Conservative Party is the only party that will stand up for what is best for Britain." She emphasised that the issues that mattered most on the doorstep were education, health and unemployment — not Europe and a single currency.

Leading article, page 21

Brittan urges 'rational compromise'

BY JAMES LANDALE AND ANDREW PIERCE

SIR LEON BRITTAN challenged Euro-sceptic Tories yesterday to unite behind John Major's "wait and see" policy on a single currency or doom the party to defeat at the next election.

The Vice-President of the European Commission and former Tory minister said he was prepared to put aside his own support for a single currency to campaign behind the Prime Minister's compromise to help win the election.

"If we cannot unite on this issue, we do not deserve to win office," Sir Leon told a fringe meeting of the Tory conference. "If the Conservative Party cannot remain silent and accept this honourable and rational compromise . . . then we are really condemning ourselves to defeat."

In a lively debate with Norman Lamont, the former Chancellor, Sir Leon mounted his strongest defence yet of the European Union and challenged sceptics to declare whether they wanted Britain to withdraw from the bloc entirely. He attacked Mr Lamont's "deterministic" belief that Europe was on an inevitable path towards federalism. If Britain wanted to change the direction of the EU, it had to be at the heart of Europe, he said.

Mr Lamont said a single currency would put the EU on an inevitable path towards federalism. While careful not to criticise openly Mr Major's "wait and see" policy, he said that a single currency would involve nothing less than a constitutional revolution. "We have to be opposed to the idea of a single currency that will inevitably lead to political union."

At a fringe meeting of the Conservative Way Forward group, Sir George Gardiner, the former chairman of the right-wing 92 Group, attacked the Government's policy on the single currency on a platform he was sharing with Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary. Mr Portillo, in his speech, stayed away from the European theme and, in an implicit rebuke to the Tory Euro-rebels, said: "If we have a will to govern we need a will to win. We need to work together."

هكذا من الاصل

Election campaign thwarts plans for new laws

BY JILL SHERMAN CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LEGISLATION for national identity cards and plans to help the elderly with nursing-home fees have been scrapped for this Parliament.

John Major has decided to strip the legislative programme for the next six months of contentious or costly new laws. This month's Queen's Speech will be confined instead to a handful of populist Bills that will add little to public spending and should easily get through the Commons in six months.

Tony Newton, the Leader of the Commons, has been worried that a busy legislative session would keep Tory MPs at Westminster when they should be campaigning for the general election. He also argues that there would not be enough legislative time to get through more than about four or five main Bills. These are likely to include plans by Peter Lilley to combat benefit fraud, Michael Howard's proposals for tougher sentences and Gillian Shephard's plans to extend selection in grant-maintained schools and to toughen discipline in schools.

Among those that may now be dropped are a Bill to reform primary healthcare so that GPs do more minor operations, and Mr Howard's Bill to provide for a crime squad to tackle organised crime.

Plans to privatise Channel 4 may also not reach the statute book before the general election and a proposed Bill on competition is still in the balance. Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade, confirmed yesterday that new laws on strikes would not be introduced this autumn.

A Bill on tightening gun control is likely to go ahead after publication of the Cullen inquiry.

Mr Howard was to have introduced four Bills this autumn but party sources confirmed yesterday that the planned Bill on identity cards will not go ahead because the legislation is too complex. He had hoped to bring in a voluntary card based on the photocard driving licence which will come into use next year.

A Bill to help elderly people to pay their nursing-home fees is also likely to be scrapped until after the general election on the ground of cost and because the legislation is too complicated. Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, published a paper earlier this year with details of a partnership plan between the Government and the insurance industry.

Unions face writs from public over 'damaging' strikes

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

VICTIMS of strikes in monopoly public services such as railways, hospitals and schools, will be able to sue unions for damages under plans announced yesterday. Ministers hope that the reforms, unveiled by Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, will act as a powerful deterrent to the unions.

"The unions could face bankruptcy. They will have to think very hard before they order the next strike on the London Underground because they could be sued for thousands of pounds of damages," one senior Tory said last night. He added: "The point is, we hope that this move will deter the strike in the first place."

Mr Lang, in his conference speech, said: "Trade unions will have to answer to the public when they call damaging strikes in public services."

There would be a new concept, "proportionality", at the heart of the legislation. "If a strike's effects are disproportionately damaging to the public then the union which organises the strike will risk losing its immunity and be sued for damages."

Legislation will not be prepared before the end of the Parliament. The proposals will form a cornerstone of the Tory election manifesto. Officials will have to establish what is disproportionate: whether people will be able to sue if trains are delayed because of industrial action or only if no trains run at all. They want to avoid millions of rail commuters issuing writs every time there is disruption.

The proposals, which delighted Tory activists at Bournemouth, will pose a dilemma for Tony Blair. If the Labour leader opposes them, the Tories will brand him the trade unionists' poodle.

Last night, the unions promised to fight the plan. Alan Johnson, general secretary of the Union of Communication Workers, which represents postal workers, said: "Demonising workers in essential services is not an attempt to address industrial relation problems. It is merely to engage in that famous Tory sport of union bashing."

A senior Tory said: "This goes one step further than the Thatcher reforms which outlawed the flying picket and closed shop. This is an extension of one of Margaret Thatcher's biggest successes."

Mr Lang told the conference: "I am determined to ensure that if, in future, trade unions recklessly overstep the limits of legitimate protest by exploiting monopoly power, they will face the consequences of their actions. We have made unions accountable to their members. I will now act to make them accountable to the public."

Mr Lang said many people had forgotten the winter of discontent, flying pickets and the closed shop. "But this summer we had a reprise, like a bad dream, of those old, ugly attitudes. It's in the few remaining monopolies in the public sector that the virus survives.

"We saw it in the Royal Mail and in the London Underground and British Rail. It was the public who suffered, held to ransom, treated with contempt. The unions used them for their own narrow interests."

Opening the trade and industry debate, Simon Milton, the prospective parliamentary candidate for Leicester East, attacked Labour's pledge that small businesses would be safe under a Blair government. "That's a bit like Madame Vasso saying, 'your secret will be safe with me'."

He pressed the Government to legislate after a bad summer for strikes. He said: "We cannot stay competitive if workers are prevented from travelling to their jobs by rail unions who co-ordinate their one-day strikes to cause maximum chaos for the rest of us. We cannot stay competitive if our companies cannot post orders or invoices."



CHRIS HARRIS

Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, taking a leisurely approach to preparations for his speech today

Agencies to help jobless lone parents

BY JILL SHERMAN

PRIVATE job agencies are be given financial incentives to find work for up to 100,000 single mothers as part of a package announced by Peter Lilley yesterday.

In his conference speech, which included new laws to combat fraud, the Social Security Secretary said that £20 million would be invested in the *Parent Plus* scheme to encourage single mothers to get work.

Mr Lilley mixed the news of his proposals with a muted swipe at Brussels, a plea for unity and some well-honed jokes. But his decision to cut out his rabble-rousing anti-European rhetoric of previous years earned him a less enthusiastic reception than usual.

Twelve pilot schemes modelled on the American system Gain are to be set up next year. In four areas private firms will be invited to tender for schemes. In the eight other areas single parents will be offered help from a benefit agency or employment service caseworker. The caseworker will advise on CVs, how to dress, and how to approach interviews. In four other pilot schemes parents will be given help with child care costs while they look for work.

Officials indicated that the involvement of the private sector marked a trend that could be extended much more widely. Mr Lilley also announced that a Bill would be included in the Queen's Speech to combat benefit fraud, under which the Social Security Department will be able to check Inland Revenue records against benefit agency records.

Mr Lilley said that he intended to set up a fraud inspectorate to investigate councils that were not taking housing benefit fraud seriously, and force them to take action.

In addition legislation will be introduced to reform the compensation recovery scheme, to allow accident victims to keep all of any damages awarded for pain and suffering.

French porn TV to be switched off

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND VALERIE ELLIOTT

VIRGINIA BOTTOMLEY will today announce plans to ban a satellite pornography channel as the Government intensifies its campaign to reduce obscenity on television.

The National Heritage Secretary will tell the Tory conference that the Government will bar the sale of "smart cards" that allow viewers access to the Rendezvous channel broadcast from France.

About 20,000 viewers have already bought an annual subscription to the channel but today's announcement will lead to it losing its British audience within a year. A separate ban on British firms advertising on the channel is aimed at cutting off the company's financial lifeline.

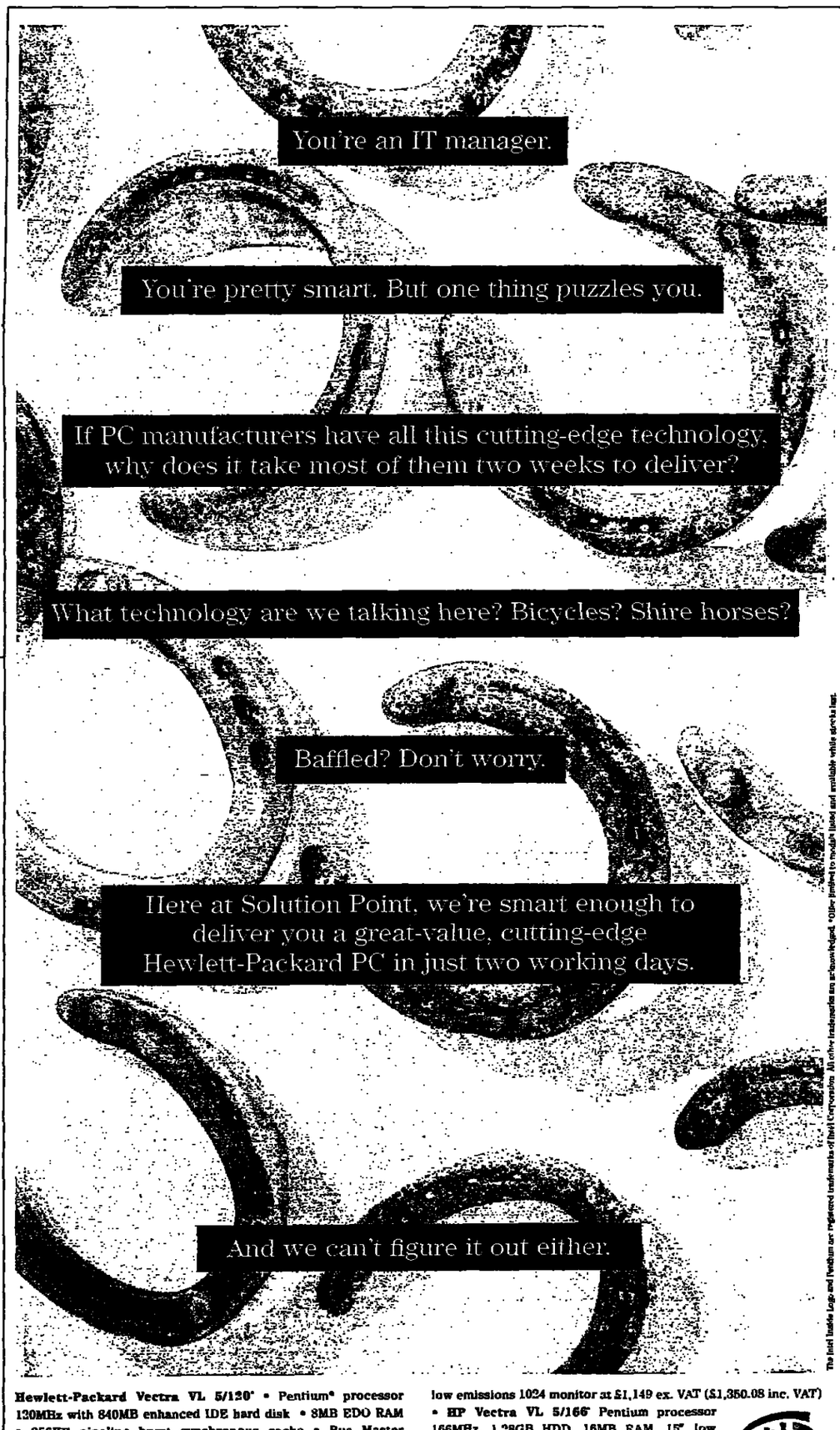
Ministers have faced legal difficulties in preventing overseas companies transmitting pornographic programmes to Britain, but John Major indicated yesterday that he wants tougher action to reduce obscenity. Today's announcement is to be followed by further measures to deter foreign companies broadcasting pornography here.

Mrs Bottomley will also announce a drive to persuade employers to release staff to work with voluntary groups in the community.



Bottomley: sale ban on satellite "smart cards"





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Former Ulster officer claims he was victim of dirty tricks when he threatened to expose MI5 secrets

'SAS man' cleared of killing after 16-year campaign

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

A SIXTEEN-YEAR campaign to clear his name by a man claiming to have been an SAS officer ended in victory yesterday when his conviction for manslaughter was quashed by the Lord Chief Justice.

Colin Wallace, 53, has consistently claimed that he was the victim of a dirty tricks campaign by MI5 to stop him from making allegations about security service operations in Northern Ireland.

In a 26-page judgment read in the Court of Appeal by Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Mr Wallace's conviction for killing his friend Jonathan Lewis in 1980 was dismissed as unsafe. His lawyers said later that he would pursue a claim for compensation but Ann Curnow, QC, for the Crown, announced that the prosecution would seek a retrial.

Although officially employed as a senior army information officer at Lisburn in Ulster before being dismissed in 1975, Mr Wallace claims that he once worked as an intelligence officer with the job of spreading confusion among terrorists.

He maintains that he became involved with MI5 officers in operation Clockwork Orange, which was allegedly aimed at removing Harold Wilson from office as Prime Minister. Mr Wallace said he became the target of covert operations to discredit him because of his threat to expose undercover work, forgery and homosexual blackmail of public figures in Ulster by British intelligence.

He was dismissed for allegedly leaking a restricted document to a journalist but in 1990 received compensation of £30,000 after an inquiry by David Calcutt, QC, into the Defence Ministry's handling of his dismissal.

He was released from prison in 1986 after serving more than six years of a ten-year sentence imposed at Lewes Crown Court for the manslaughter of Mr Lewis, 29, an antiques dealer.

At the time of the killing, Mr Wallace was working for Arun District Council, Sussex, as an information officer, assisted by Mr Lewis's wife, Jane. They formed "a relationship which was amorous but not adulterous", the judge said.

Mr Wallace, a married man now working as a management consultant, said outside court that he believed Mr Lewis was killed by criminal members of the antiques trade in Brighton but that police had suppressed the evidence. He called for a police investigation into events surrounding the killing, including the handling of evidence.

At his trial, the prosecution alleged that Mr Wallace had knocked out Mr Lewis at his home in Arundel, West Sussex, and dumped him in the Arun, where he drowned. Dr Iain West, a Home Office pathologist, had told the jury that the victim had "probably been hit by a karate blow" to the nose. But at the appeal court hearing in July, two other pathologists said that such a powerful blow would have caused damage to nasal bones, bleeding, swelling and bruising. There was no evidence of this.

Professor Keith Mant, whose report was not produced at the original trial, concluded that Mr Lewis must have been dumped in the river shortly after the blow. The Crown had said there was a two-hour gap between the blow and the drowning. Mr Wallace said the allegation of a karate blow had been manufactured to link the killing to his army background.

Lord Bingham, giving the appeal judges' ruling, said: "Had the case as it now appears been put before the court in February 1982 [when an application for leave to appeal against conviction was dismissed] we have no doubt that leave would have been granted, the appeal allowed and a new trial ordered."

Lord Bingham said that before the trial it had been agreed between the Crown and the defence that Mr Wallace's SAS history should not be given to the jury. But newspapers published pictures of Mr Wallace in uniform. He told the court that he had not been trained in unarmed combat, but the jury could have disbelieved him, Lord Bingham said.

Despite references in the judgment to Mr Wallace's SAS service, Defence Ministry sources have denied that he was ever a member.

The judgment said that Mr Wallace and Mr Lewis had met before a surprise party for Mrs Lewis on August 5, 1980. Mr Wallace told her and other guests that Mr Lewis would be late. He was not seen alive again.

At first Mr Wallace did not tell Mrs Lewis or the police about the meeting with her husband, but later admitted it and said that Mr Lewis had confronted him about his relationship with his wife. Lord Bingham said the Crown relied heavily at the trial on Mr Wallace's lies. But it was possible, he said, that Mr Wallace had wanted to conceal the subject of the conversation and that, from that moment, he found himself drawn into an "ever-increasing spiral of deception".

ADRIAN SHERRATT



Colin Wallace outside the Court of Appeal after his victory yesterday. He will seek compensation for six years spent in prison for manslaughter



Jane Lewis: formed an "amorous relationship"

Racist banter costs newspaper £13,000

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A WOMAN was told at a job interview with a local newspaper that being called a "black bastard" was typical office banter. Claudia Baptiste, 28, who is black, applied for two jobs in advertising sales at the *Telegraph and Argus* in Bradford but was not appointed, despite being described as an excellent candidate.

An industrial tribunal in Leeds awarded her £13,000 after ruling that she had been the victim of racist remarks. The tribunal was told that Miss Baptiste, of Bradford, was told at one interview that it was essential in the job to have a sense of humour. Jane Holt, the advertising manager, told her that she had called a member of staff a "black bastard" and he had called her a "white honky".

Miss Baptiste will also receive a written apology from the newspaper, which has agreed to bring in new guidelines on race discrimination and employment procedures, and to ensure that staff have extra training. After the decision, Miss Baptiste said she was pleased that an agreement had been reached, but added that money was no compensation.

"The written apology is far more important to me and the fact that I can finally get on with my life," she said. "I want to tell anyone who has suffered from race discrimination to come forward. No one should have to accept it."

Courtney Hey, of the Northern Complainant Aid Fund, said that the case should never have gone to a tribunal. "It was clear to the newspaper from a very early stage that they had committed unlawful discrimination. For them to try to defend making racial statements to Miss Baptiste was unacceptable."

Tim Blott, managing director of Bradford and District Newspapers, said that the manager concerned had been disciplined. "We have an equal opportunities policy and don't condone discrimination in any shape or form."

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STUART HARRISON



Islanders on Espiritu Santo, where a gene can protect against death from malaria

Pacific islanders' genes hold key to better malaria vaccine

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

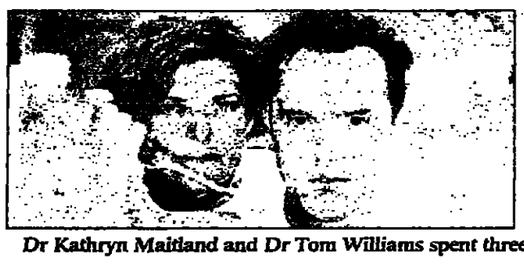
A DISCOVERY made by British scientists on an island in the Pacific Ocean could lead to a new approach for vaccinating against malaria.

A team from the Institute of Molecular Medicine at Oxford has shown why children who carry a particular gene are protected against dying from malaria. The conclusion is that the gene makes the children more susceptible to a minor form of the disease, and that that may help to protect them against the more serious variety.

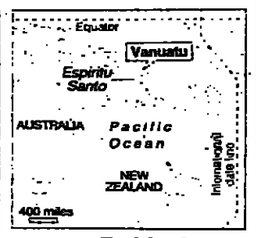
Dr Tom Williams and his wife, Dr Kathryn Maitland, spent three years on the island of Espiritu Santo, in Vanuatu, gathering the data. Together with colleagues they report today in *Nature* that children who carry the gene for a blood abnormality are much more likely to get malaria, but less likely to die of it.

The gene is the one responsible for a form of anaemia called alpha thalassaemia. There has long been evidence that people carrying the gene are less likely to contract malaria and that is believed to be why the thalassaemia gene has survived in malaria-prone populations.

Dr Williams said he was surprised to find that the version of the gene they studied did not appear to protect at all. Children carrying two copies of it were more, not less, likely to get malaria. Evidence from other countries that the gene protects against malaria is strong. There were two ways of explaining the results, he said. One was that contracting malaria when young improved the chances of surviving it later; the other was that getting the milder form, called *Plasmodium vivax*, reduced the severity of subsequent attacks of the lethal form, *Plasmodium falciparum*. Dr Williams said: "The second of these is the more exciting, because it suggests that a new vaccine for malaria might be based on *Plasmodium vivax*. It has always been argued that *vivax* doesn't protect against *falciparum*, but we speculate that it may make the disease less dangerous."



Dr Kathryn Maitland and Dr Tom Williams spent three years on Espiritu Santo



Teacher died after Burma holiday

A CORONER in Hong Kong recorded a verdict of death by natural causes yesterday on a British teacher who died from malaria in February.

Simon Davies, 34, gave a positive test for malaria at one hospital, but the finding was not passed to the hospital to which he was later transferred. When Mr Davies eventually received treatment for a fast-spreading form of the disease it was too late, the coroner was told.

Mr Davies, who taught English at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, had suffered flu-like symptoms two weeks after a holiday in Burma. On his return he visited Queen Mary Hospital in Hong Kong, but was sent home with paracetamol. He was later flown to another hospital and then transferred to a third, where he died on February 16.

Smoking 'increases risk of blindness'

BY JEREMY LAURANCE

SMOKING can cause blindness, scientists have found. They discovered that smokers face an increased risk of macular degeneration, a condition in which the cell layer behind the retina begins to rot.

Those who smoke more than 20 cigarettes a day have twice the risk of developing the condition, which is the commonest cause of blindness in the elderly.

A study of 32,000 nurses aged between 50 and 59 in 1980, by a team from the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, Boston, found that over the following 12 years those who smoked more than 25 cigarettes a day had almost 2½ times the risk of developing macular degeneration.

Giving up smoking, even 15 years earlier, did not reduce the risk. A second study of 21,000 male doctors conducted at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, and Harvard Medical School reported similar findings.

The studies are reported in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Stores lose fight over 'superbean' labelling

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

SUPERMARKETS have lost their fight to be able to warn customers which foods are made from genetically altered soya bean products. The retailers conceded defeat yesterday in a year-long battle to have the foods, which will be on the shelves from next month, clearly labelled to give consumers a choice.

The move could open the floodgates to a string of genetically altered crops, including maize, sugar beet, wheat and potatoes. Soya can be found in 60 per cent of supermarket food products, and thousands of tonnes of the herbicide-resistant strain are currently being processed into everything from chocolate to mayonnaise, dressings, cooking oils, pasta, breakfast cereals, sausages, milk drinks, ready meals and desserts.

Sainsbury's, one of the companies that has been pressing for clear labelling, confirmed yesterday that consumers will have no idea whether the ready meal or baby food they buy contains the "superbeans". "We have had to concede. There will be no labelling. We are very disappointed," a spokesman said. Most of the big chains said yesterday that they would be putting leaflets into stores to explain to their customers what was happening.

The beans, developed by the American company Monsanto, have been altered by use of a gene from a bacteria to be resistant to its herbicides, which are made from glyphosate. The company, whose gene-altered crop is being harvested this month, claims it is impossible to segregate the new beans from natural ones.

Martin Henderson of the Co-operative chain, which refused to stock a paste made from genetically altered tomatoes, said that it was powerless to control the arrival of the superbeans in the food chain. "When you have literally hundreds of own-brand products made from soya and manufactured in Britain, Europe and the world, then knowing where the beans come from is impossible. Everyone is in the same boat."

About 2 per cent of this year's 66 million tonne American crop, where beans for British foods come from, is from gene-altered seeds. The percentage will increase in coming years. Retailers said that they would step up pressure on Monsanto to segregate beans from next year.

Julie Sheppard, of Genetic Forum, a group that monitors developments in genetically altered food, said yesterday that the arrival of the beans, unlabelled, in British food flew in the face of consumer wishes. "An opinion poll by the Food and Drink Federation last year found that 93 per cent of consumers wanted any food which contains genetically engineered ingredients to be clearly labelled," she said.

Monsanto has been given European Union approval to ship the beans to Britain and the Continent. Ministry of Agriculture scientists claim that processing leaves no trace of the bacterial gene or its byproducts. Critics claim the beans are being rushed into products before all safety concerns have been properly resolved and are worried that other gene-altered crops will find their way into foods unlabelled.

Janet Nunn, director of food and drink at the British Retail Consortium, said that unless segregation of the crop could be guaranteed, retailers should develop new sources of conventional soya beans or use soya alternatives.

Love's labours exact the highest price

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR



The amorous fruit fly

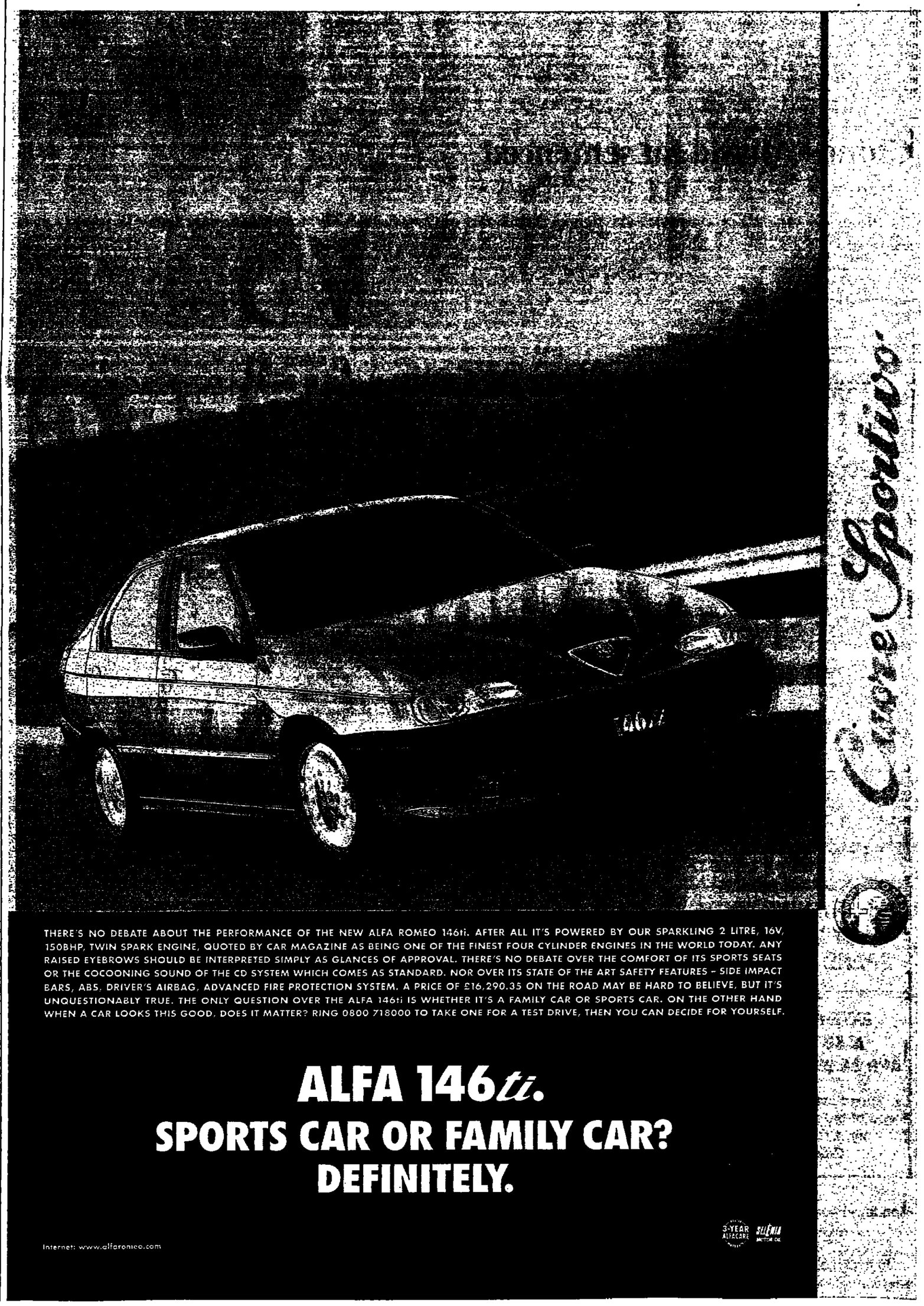
COURTING fruit flies just don't know when to stop. The constant beating of wings as they make their courtship song wears them out and they die young.

Biologists have known for a while that sex cuts life expectancy in fruit flies. But the latest research shows that it is not so much the sex as the effort to get it that does the damage.

Dr Linda Partridge, of University College London, and Dr Rudiger Cordts, of Ruhr University, have teased out this fact in an ingenious experiment reported in *New Scientist*. They used mutant males, unable to produce sperm, and females with damaged reproductive tracts, which meant they could not mate. They compared their behaviour and lifespan with ordinary males and females.

At best, the life of a fruit fly is little more than a month. Males kept in vials with other males, who made no attempt to mate, lived the longest. But all the males who courted females died more than a week earlier.

It made no difference whether they had actually succeeded in mating: flies who had had sex lived just as long as those who had rushed around wooing females that were unable to mate.



War fears grow as South Koreans are found murdered

FROM DAVID WATTS IN SEOUL

TENSIONS on the Korean peninsula have risen to the highest level since the end of the Korean War after three peasants were murdered in the South in an area where three North Koreans are on the run.

The Government has been talking of severe retaliation against the North ever since a North Korean hit-squad came ashore from a broken-down submarine last month.

Only three from the original team remain free. Twenty two were killed — 11 by their commanders — and one officer is in captivity. A taxi-driver who spotted the submarine has been given a free trip to the United States by an admirer.

The pressure on President Kim Young Sam is now likely to become almost irresistible after two men and an elderly woman were murdered while out picking mushrooms. The men were shot with M16s, which the North Korean fugitives are known to have, and the woman was bludgeoned to death.

The incident is a fresh humiliation for the Government, which had told the public that the North Koreans had either fled across the border to the North or would die of exposure. South Koreans have been outraged that while the North was holding a seminar on foreign investment and appealing to the world for rice to feed its starving peasants, a senior North Korean general was entertaining the hit-squad to a banquet before they set off to kill the South Korean leader at a national sports day in the east coast area where the team landed.

Maps of the area, South Korean army uniforms, M16 rifles and hand grenades were found on board the North Korean submarine.

President Kim has rallied the opposition and given a warning that any incident might lead to a "limited war" on the peninsula.

He has threatened to withdraw from a key programme — which has kept the lid on a cauldron of hatred for several years — to build a light-water nuclear reactor in North Korea so that the most hard-line communist Government in the world will not develop nuclear weapons and turn a crisis into a regional disaster.

A clear South Korean-American rift is obvious from the amount of publicity being given by the Kim Government to the arrest of a man in the United States who was allegedly spying for Seoul against Washington.

President Clinton now faces the possibility that one of his key foreign policy successes is threatened in the run-up to next month's presidential election.

The White House is disturbed at the speedy deterioration of the situation and is sending Winston Lord, Assistant Secretary of State, to try to cool South Korean heads. He is due in Seoul on Thursday.

The submarine mission may have been prompted by the increasing desperation of Kim Jong Il, the North Korean leader. *The Times* has learnt that since an accident — when he apparently crashed one of his sports cars — the "Dear Leader" has been unable to speak properly as a result of brain damage.

Since the accident he has not made a public speech, and a senior South Korean source says the North Korean leader has only once been heard to utter a phrase. At a military parade he said: "Let's bring glory to the North Korean armed forces".

Most probably because of his speech handicap, he has never been made head of state or of the workers' party, despite the fact that it is three years since his father, Kim Il Sung, died.

Chinese dissident sentenced

BY JAMES PRINGLE

A PROMINENT Chinese dissident, Liu Xiaobo, was ordered to serve three years in a labour camp just hours after the police detained him at his home on Tuesday, his relatives said yesterday. They added that no reason had been given by the authorities for his detention.

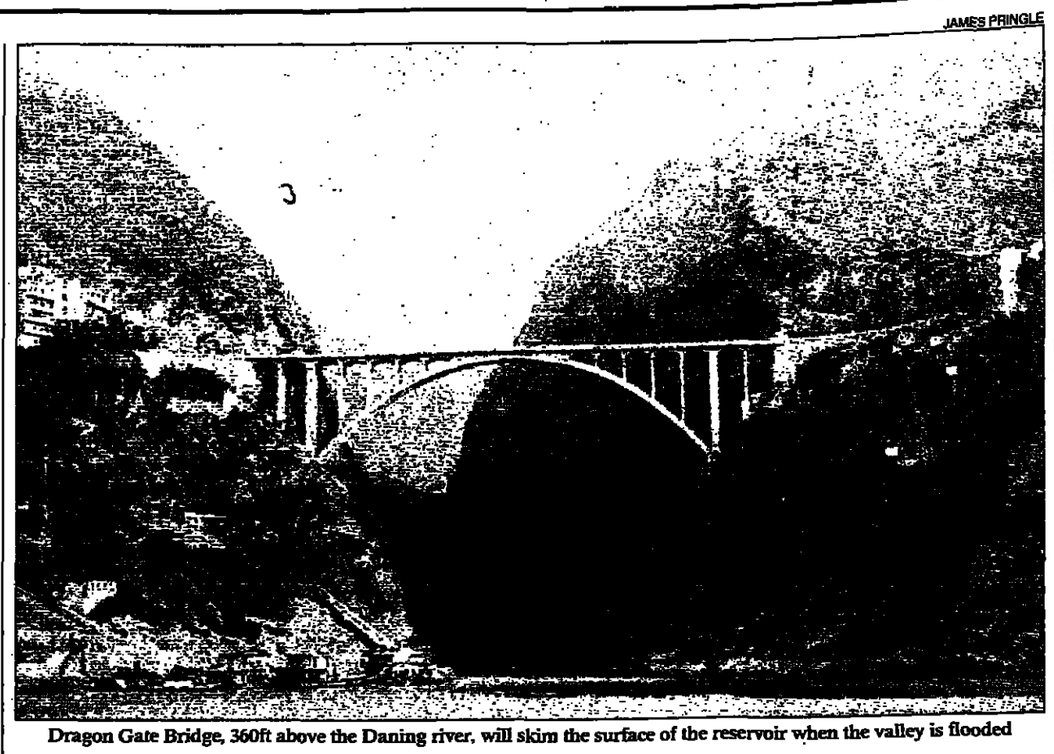
Mr Liu, who is in his thirties, is an author, critic and former university lecturer. He came to prominence during the pro-democracy protests of 1989 and he played a leading role in the Tiananmen demonstrations which were bloodily suppressed. For that, Mr Liu spent a year and a half in detention.

Last month, Mr Liu and another dissident, Wang Xizhe, wrote an open letter calling for freedom of speech in the press in China. It also criticised President Jiang Zemin and attacked government policies in Tibet. Mr Liu's detention was almost certainly connected with this.

Mr Wang could not be reached at home in the southern city of Canton and sources said he did not return there on Tuesday, raising the possibility that he had also been detained.

Chinese police officers have the power, at their own discretion, to send people to what is called "re-education through labour".

JAMES PRINGLE



Dragon Gate Bridge, 360ft above the Daning river, will skim the surface of the reservoir when the valley is flooded

Weary peasants plan dam escape

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN WUSHAN, SICHUAN



The mammoth Three Gorges Dam under construction

ALONG the Daning river, which joins the mighty Yangtze at this town of "Witch Mountain" — named after a rock formation resembling a sorceress — peasants work in fields of black fertile earth. But in just a few years, they will have to move up to the steep mountain ridges, and terrace it in back-breaking labour to escape the waters of a reservoir.

"Some of them are not too happy about that," said Zhang Qing, 27, as our motorised sampan passed beneath Dragon Gate Bridge, which stood almost 360ft above us. The water level of the 394-mile-long reservoir — which will form behind the mammoth Three Gorges Dam, now under construction downstream on the Yangtze — will reach the road surface of the bridge, she explained.

Most of the little "three gorges", which are miniature versions of the famed Three Gorges on the Yangtze, will be flooded in a few years to provide irrigation and hydro-electric power. The mandarin ducks will probably survive, but it is sobering to think that the monkeys who play in the undergrowth on the banks will have to be evacuated along with 1.2 million people in 300 towns and villages. The screams of the monkeys used to be heard all along the Yangtze, and Li Bai, the Tang dynasty poet, mentioned them, but this is their last retreat.

By 2003, Wushan, a surprisingly rakish town at the confluence of the Daning and Yangtze with its population of 90,000 in noisy, tree-lined streets, and its myriad markets and karaoke bars, will be entirely under the muddy, polluted reservoir waters.

Li Peng, the Prime Minister, has promised that everything will be done to preserve relics and to excavate important sites, but "cash shortfall" is a refrain that is heard all along the Yangtze.

Archaeologists say that they do not have enough funds to dig much in the "little" gorges, where a race called the Ba once lived and whose coffins were placed on pegs on cliffs or on narrow shelves. One is still visible hundreds of feet up — at least it will not be disturbed. Elsewhere, botanists are scouring the Yangtze valley for herb species that could disappear for ever.

In doomed Wushan, a crowd of young schoolgirls brush the streets in a display of civic pride that will soon make no difference. On the hills above Wushan, bulldozers and heavy lorries kick up dust as work progresses on private blocks of flats. They are quite attractive, which is more than can be said for those that have already been built above Wanxian, a large city further upstream, where 800,000 people are to be moved.

In truth, the loss of towns such as Wanxian and Wushan is not a catastrophe, as most buildings are ugly concrete blocks built during the architecturally dull Maoist period of the 1950s. Still, this whole area is important in Chinese history, site of the kingdoms of Shu and Wu during the period romanticised in *Romance of the Three Kingdoms*, a classic as important in Chinese culture as the *Iliad* is in the West.

WORLD SUMMARY

34 killed in Algeria ambush

Paris: Muslim fundamentalists killed 34 people in an Algerian town, including 20 bus passengers who had their throats cut, Algerian newspapers reported yesterday.

"Passengers of a bus were told [by terrorists] to get out for identity checks which turned into a nightmare. One by one their throats were coldly slit," *Liberté* said. The ambush, in the south of the Saharan desert town of Laghouat, was one of the bloodiest reported in nearly five years of violence. *(Reuter)*

Pope stepping back to health

Rome: The Pope was making a smooth recovery from his appendix operation yesterday, walking around and chatting with doctors, who said a definitive biopsy had shown that he did not have a tumour. "He spoke with us and he strolled around the corridors of his suite," said Professor Luigi Ortona, a senior member of the Pope's medical team. *(Reuter)*

Rabbits freed to spread disease

Sydney: The Australian Government has officially released rabbits in New South Wales infected with the deadly rabbit calicivirus disease, hoping it will spread and kill most of the estimated 200 million rabbits ravaging the countryside. The virus accidentally escaped from an island laboratory last year. *(AFP)*

Liberians ask for end to aid

Monrovia: Starving people in Liberia are asking to be spared more aid because it attracts guerrilla factions, Tasema Nagash, a UN humanitarian co-ordinator, said. In the latest atrocity, 25 people were killed, mostly women and children. *(AFP)*

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Taleban conquest falters as Afghan factions fight back

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN JABAL OS-SIRAJ

THE Taleban Islamic militia has been halted in its stunning sweep through Afghanistan. The fighters, overstretched and outmanoeuvred, appeared yesterday to have suspended their siege of former government forces in the Panjshir Valley.

The Islamic warriors have regrouped in the small town of Jabal os-Siraj, which straddles the Salang Highway a few miles from the mouth of the Panjshir. This is one of the biggest reverses for Taleban in its two-year march through the country, three-quarters of which it controls. Its hopes of swiftly capturing northern Afghanistan seem suddenly to have collapsed.

Additional tanks, artillery and men were shifted to Jabal os-Siraj on Tuesday and yesterday. This is Taleban's principal supply base for the siege of Panjshir as well as for forces guarding the Salang Highway against the troops of General Rashid Dostum, the Uzbek warlord of the north, who controls the vital Salang Tunnel. He seems to have allied himself with the ousted Government against the invaders. That would make a formidable partnership.

Jabal os-Siraj, a few miles south of the tunnel, could probably not survive for long against a determined joint operation by General Dostum and General Ahmed Shah Masood, the defence chief of the defeated Government. The extent of their alliance is not yet clear. General Dostum has said there is no pact and that he remains neutral. This seems improbable.

He is continuing talks in the northern city of Mazar-i Sharif with Burhanuddin Rabbani, the former President. General Dostum has not ruled out holding talks with Taleban if it halts its military offensive. The former communist commander is a military opportunist who has changed sides several times in Afghanistan's 17 years of armed conflict. He has huge amounts of hardware, including fighter aircraft. In Afghan terms he is an Islamic moderate: some of his men even drink.

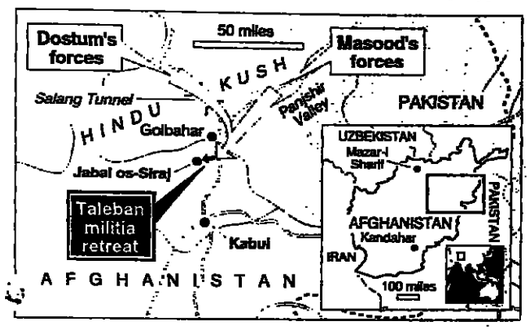
General Masood has some old Russian MiG21s, and he escaped to the Panjshir two weeks ago with most of his tanks and artillery.

General Dostum participated, or at least co-operated, in an assault on Taleban forces south of the Salang Tunnel two days ago. Scores of Taleban fighters died in the confrontation and Taleban also lost 200 to 300 men in its assault on the Panjshir.

The mood of Taleban soldiers guarding the approaches to Jabal os-Siraj yesterday was sombre. There was no sound of shelling at the Panjshir, apparently confirming reports that the assault has stopped.

Afghanistan looks set for prolonged uncertainty as it enters a new phase of war. Taleban's military strategists in the southern city of Kandahar are doubtless stunned by the reverse in their fortunes. In Kabul, its religious leaders are equally as surprised by mounting international hostility to its harsh theocracy.

☐ **Kabul:** An International Red Cross official was severely beaten and held for 13 hours after being detained by Taleban militia in Kabul. The organisation has complained to the Government. *(AFP)*



REUTER



Binyamin Netanyahu with his wife, Sara, whose former husband said he was alarmed to see her reviewing state papers

Marriage book threatens Netanyahu

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL'S accident-prone First Lady was at the centre of a new scandal yesterday after disclosures that her former husband was about to publish an unflattering memoir of their six-year marriage.

The Israeli press reported that aides to Binyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, had failed to prevent publication of intimate disclosures about his third wife, Sara, by the man she married in 1981. The impending publication of the book by Doron Neuberger, a kibbutz teacher whose marriage ended in divorce, cast a new political shadow over Mr Netanyahu at a time when he is facing strong pressure at home and abroad over his handling of the recent security crisis with the Palestinians.

It came as Mrs Netanyahu, 37, was still struggling to shake off the memory of an earlier scandal over her alleged tyranny of two domestic servants and her alleged obsession with cleanliness.

Israel's tabloid press carried stories yesterday alleging that $1 million (£640,000) had been demanded unsuccessfully by Nr Neuberger from the Prime Minister's office to suppress the book.

Yediot Aharonot, the Tel Aviv daily newspaper, reported under the headline "The Life of Sara" that Mr Neuberger decided "to publish the book after he saw his wife reviewing secret state documents alongside her present husband. The photographs led Mr Neuberger to conclude that Mrs Netanyahu was involved in decision-making, which frightened him."

☐ **Sharon plea:** Ariel Sharon, Israel's hawkish former Defence Minister, surprised Israelis and Arabs by saying in a radio broadcast yesterday that concessions were now necessary in order to make peace in the region.

Cities of Middle East hit by quake

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE eastern Mediterranean was rocked by powerful tremors yesterday, with residents of Nicosia, Cairo, Tel Aviv, Beirut and other main cities running into the streets in panic and abandoning their cars with the motors running.

A woman was killed when her three-storey home collapsed as a result of the quake 50 miles north of the Egyptian capital, news agencies reported. Cyprus police said a 73-year-old man died of a heart attack as he and other patients were escorted downstairs at Limassol General Hospital during the tremor.

The earthquake, which lasted 20 minutes, registered 6.5 on the Richter scale, shaking tall buildings in cities around the Mediterranean rim. An Egyptian seismologist at Helwan Observatory said the epicentre appeared to be in the Gulf of Aqaba, but the US Geological Survey said that the main tremors were off the western coastal resort of Paphos in Cyprus.

The shocks were most strongly felt on the island in that town and in Limassol in the south. One man in Nicosia said the ground "was shaking so much I could hardly keep upright". Landslides in the mountains near Paphos blocked roads.

Residents of Beirut said there had been damage to shaky buildings left crumbling and unrestored after the civil war. The quake was also felt in the southern Lebanese port cities of Tyre and Sidon, the northern city of Tripoli and the eastern cities of Baalbek and Zahle.

The tremor was also felt in Israel, Syria and Turkey. Witnesses in Tel Aviv said high-rise buildings in the centre had swayed as the ground shook, and some buildings had been evacuated. The tremors were also felt by Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, where the more modest one and two-storey flat-roofed houses are less susceptible.

An earthquake in the region last November caused several deaths when a hotel in the Sinai peninsula collapsed. The most severe recent earthquake was in 1992, when 400 people died in Cairo.

Turks kill 250 to thwart Kurdish offensive

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL

TURKISH security officials say they may have thwarted a late autumn offensive by Kurdish militants in the southeast of the country. Unconfirmed reports speak of more than 250 members of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) being killed in nearly a week of intensive fighting.

Western analysts said Turkish troops drove PKK activists into narrower and narrower concentric circles around Sivas and Hakkari. Reports also refer to "hot pursuit" operations over the Turkish border into northern Iraq and air attacks against PKK bases deep into Iraqi territory. The bloodiest confrontation appears to have occurred in the mountains above Uludere, on the Iraqi border, where 118 PKK died. A total of 15 Turks are reported to have been killed and the PKK's local commander is said to be among the 43 militants killed at Sivas.

The apparent success of the Turkish Army in heading off this latest PKK advance demonstrates a major change in tactics. Under a new Commander-in-Chief, Ismail Hakki Karadayi, the military and the security forces are now reported to be both better co-ordinated and more aggressive. The military now operates at night and at the high altitudes which the PKK traditionally regarded as their safe haven.

While the success of the operations may have curtailed the PKK in the short term, sources close to the Turkish military also say the supply of potential recruits among the unemployed and disaffected population of the Turkish southeast is "inexhaustible".

☐ **Hunger strike:** Vedat Aydemir, a Kurdish rebel prisoner, has died in hospital ten days after setting himself alight to protest at the deaths of 11 Kurdish prisoners in a southeastern jail. *(Reuter)*

Maid accuses envoy of rape

Shah Alam, Malaysia: A Filipina maid, 27, yesterday filed a civil suit in the Malaysian High Court alleging she had been raped by Kresimir Znidaric, 46, the Croat Ambassador. Malaysian law provides for a jail term of up to 20 years and whipping for rape. Maria Ocampo alleges that the ambassador, who hired her on April 7, raped her four times between April 11 and August 23. *(AFP)*

Children die in hostel fire

Kuala Lumpur: Eleven children were burnt to death yesterday in a fire that engulfed their hostel in Sarawak, the Malaysian state on the island of Borneo.

The victims were ten boys aged between eight and 11 and a nine-year-old girl, the Bernama national news agency quoted Wan Alkap Man, a fire chief, as saying. The blaze had nearly burnt itself out by the time firefighters arrived in the remote village of Kampung Sessang. Eighteen children were sleeping in the hostel at the time of the fire. The seven survivors were being treated for burns in hospital. The dead children, most of them Muslims, could only be identified from objects on their bodies. *(Reuter)*

☐ **Kuala Lumpur:** Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the Malaysian Prime Minister, has accepted back into his party 200,000 members of the Spirit of '46, a defunct rival group, before crucial polls this week. *(Reuter)*

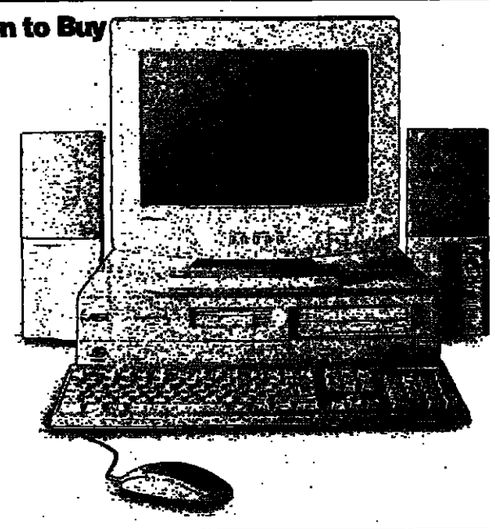
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French press riles MPs with tax perk boycott

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

FRENCH journalists who face losing their long-established tax perks have hit back at politicians where it hurts them most: by threatening not to report a single word they say.

The French fourth estate traditionally enjoys a 30 per cent tax concession which Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, wants to eliminate as part of cost-cutting measures aimed at reducing the deficit in time for European monetary union (EMU). In retaliation, reporters covering the French parliament have threatened to boycott MPs who vote to raise their taxes and several local newspapers say they will simply cease to report on politicians who support the move to repeal the cherished 60-year-old benefit.

On Tuesday, the Gaullist leader of the National Assembly accused journalists of intimidation and said he would sue any reporter or editor who carried out the threat. The six main journalism unions have called for a protest strike next Tuesday, when debate on next year's budget begins, and many local newspapers have launched Operation Invisible Man, in which local politicians supporting the change will vanish from news pages unless the Government backs down. MPs within the ruling majority are braced for another round of strikes beginning in earnest next week, but the prospect of being silenced by the media is enough to strike terror into the heart of the toughest French deputy.

"It seems an inadmissible breach of the constitution, which forbids putting pressure on parliamentarians," Michel Péricard, leader of the Gaullist Rally for the Republic party and a former television journalist, said on Tuesday. He said putting pressure on politicians was a grave professional fault and he had a list of journalists behind the threatened boycott. Fifty-seven journalists from a Provençal newspaper promptly sent a letter asking that their names be added to the "list".

Some newspapers, in an indication that the boycott threat is serious, pointedly declined to report what M Péricard had said and *France-Soir* reported that M Péricard had availed himself of the tax concession for 22 years without ever balking at it.

Several politicians are already beginning to waver when faced with the prospect of a press boycott. Some have tabled motions to retain the journalistic tax concession or to scale it down. Gilles de Robien, president of the UDF, the junior partner in the ruling coalition, said yesterday that the Government should be ready to discuss the matter, but "not with a pistol pointed at the temple".

Journalists may seem unlikely candidates for state generosity, but theirs is only one of 115 professions enjoying various benefits in the fiendishly complex tax system. Other beneficiaries include models, airline pilots and healthcare workers.

Under present rules, the 25,000 journalists in France can deduct 30 per cent of earnings from their taxable income, up to a limit of Fr50,000 (£6,200).

The concession was established in 1936, when journalists often had to pay their own expenses, purchase paper and pens and buy lunch when entertaining sources. Today, the Government points out, reporters are provided with company computers and large expense accounts for entertaining — and politicians are among the main beneficiaries.

Bomb hoax drunk jailed

Bordeaux: Patrick Lasserre, 37, who telephoned police when he was drunk last weekend and said he had just blown up city hall here, was jailed for a month with five months suspended and ordered to undergo treatment for alcoholism. Prosecutors have begun an inquiry into the bombing, by a Corsican separatist group. *(AFP/AP)*

MALCOLM CLARKE/ALL ACTION



Princess Caroline of Monaco wearing a turban at the Princess Grace Foundation awards in New York to cover her recent hair loss. The baldness, right, has been described by the Princess's brother, Prince Albert, as "a skin problem, a dermatology thing — it will grow back" (Quentin Letts writes). Aides have discounted claims that she underwent cancer treatment or that the loss was caused by shock over recent family problems.

Assaults on British diplomats increase

BY MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE world is getting more dangerous for diplomats. Attacks on British embassy officials overseas rose by 17 per cent last year, with murders, robberies, hijackings and assaults an increasing threat in capitals of the Third World and former Soviet republics.

There were 149 "serious incidents" involving British diplomats in 1995, and 101 incidents were recorded in the first six months of this year.

Examples from this year include: a diplomat in Georgetown, Guyana, who was struck in the face with a metal pole by a mentally ill man; an incident in Dhaka, Bangladesh, when rocks were thrown at a passing British High Commission vehicle; in Maseru, Lesotho, a member of staff, his wife and friends were held at gunpoint and robbed while attending a bible class in another expatriate's home; and in a Guatemala City park a staff member was held up and robbed by two men armed with a gun and wielding machetes.

One senior Foreign Office official told *Foreign Service*, a London-based magazine widely read by diplomats: "Many posts that were havens ten to 15 years ago are now hell holes, and people are not as quick to volunteer for them as they used to be."

Africa is the most dangerous continent, with 63 per cent of all the crimes recorded. The riskiest countries for British diplomats were Bulgaria and Bangladesh, each with ten serious incidents, followed by Russia with eight, Ethiopia and Hungary with seven, Turkey and Ukraine with six, and Kenya with five.

Plague of rats brings terror to Paris streets

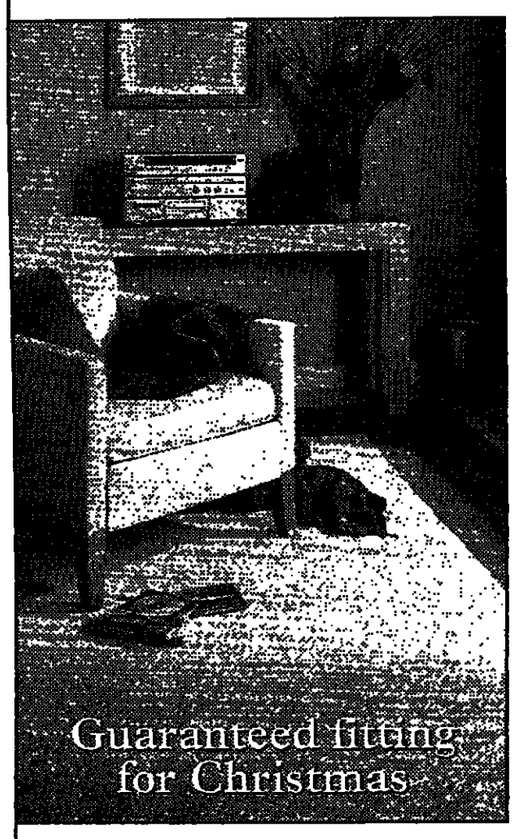
BY BEN MACINTYRE

THE sealing of litter bins in Paris after last year's terrorist bombings has led to an explosion in the rat population, which has thrived on the edible rubbish left strewn across the streets of the capital.

The fecund rodents have grown markedly fatter and more numerous since the city closed all its 26,000 bins, according to a report in *Le Figaro* yesterday, and although the threat from Algerian Islamic bombers has subsided, the plague of rats has revived a more traditional phobia. "We have recieved many complaints from Parisians and from our workers," the Paris prefecture said. There is no official estimate of the Paris population of *Rattus norvegicus*, but rat experts have pointed out that a single female can produce 60 offspring in a single year and more than 1,800 descendants in two years. Until last year's anti-terrorist operation, code-named Vigipirate, the number of rats in Paris had been dwindling over the past two centuries, but *Le Figaro* predicted a "new and bloody episode" in the battle between rat and man as a result of the sudden population boom. The authorities are gradually reopening all the bins, but the rats can look forward to at least one more blowout when the rubbish collectors go on strike next Thursday.

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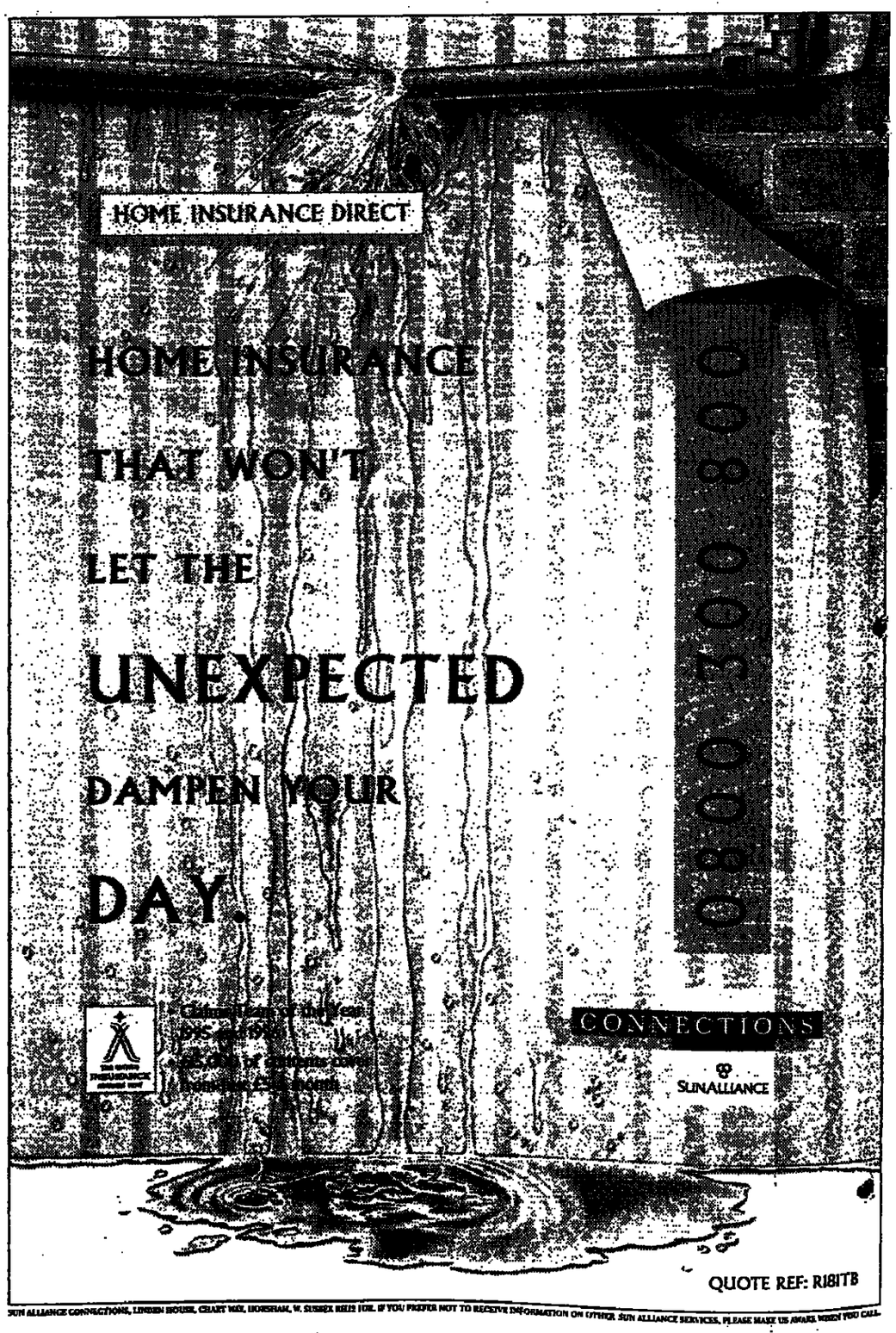
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هكذا في الأصل

Europe 'faces rising threat from global missile stock'

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

TEN different types of ballistic missiles are now deployed in the most unstable region of the world extending from Libya to North Korea.

In the latest assessment of the growing ballistic missile threat, the International Institute for Strategic Studies showed in an annual report how the range of these systems is reaching further towards Western Europe.

Britain and other European countries are examining options for developing anti-ballistic missile defences, although it is recognised that the cost may be prohibitive. According to the institute's report on the balance of forces across the world, in the Middle East, and in Central, South and East Asia, there is a proliferation of ballistic missiles with ranges varying from 45 miles to about 1,700.

The family of ballistic missiles includes Russian-made Scud Bs in Libya, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Yemen, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan and North Korea; Chinese-made CSS 2s in Saudi Arabia; and Jericho 1s and 2s in Israel.

The biggest ballistic missile in this family of medium and short-range weapons is the Chinese CSS 2 which has a range of about 1,700 miles and an explosive payload of 2,000kg. Pakistan and India have their own ballistic missiles. India has Prithvi missiles with a range of between 90 and 155 miles and a payload of up to 1,000kg, and Pakistan has Hatf missiles, with ranges up to 375 miles and a maximum payload of 500kg. Libya's Scud Bs have the capability of reaching Naples, the report said. "Libya continues to cause security concerns, not only within the region, but also among the Western powers whose concerns focus on the suspected development of weapons of mass destruction, in particular chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery," the report said.

Libya was constructing a special underground facility at Tarhuna, about 35 miles southeast of Tripoli, which the West suspected was to be a chemical weapons plant.

Iraq, the report said, was still restrained from developing new military capabilities because of the restrictions imposed by the United Nations Security Council. However, Baghdad had not been deterred "from efforts to hide and retain what proscribed military capabilities they can".

In the Middle East and North Africa, where many of the ballistic missiles are deployed, defence spending across the region had shown a small increase in 1996, the report said. Saudi Arabia accounted for nearly a third of regional spending on defence. Israel, Iran, Egypt and Syria were also high defence spenders. Very little public information was available on Iraq. The Iranian defence budget for 1996 had increased substantially to $3.4 billion (£2.2 billion), with arms imports coming mainly from Russia and China.

☐ *The Military Balance 1996/1997*, International Institute for Strategic Studies.

Rivals say Lebed has sold out to Nato

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S security chief, General Aleksandr Lebed, faced a storm of protest from his political rivals when he returned to Moscow last night after his visit to Nato headquarters in Brussels.

Although the trip, his first to the West, was regarded by Nato officials as a resounding success, the security adviser's detractors at home were accusing him of selling out Russia, first to Chechen rebels and now to the alliance.

Viktor Vishnyakov, a parliamentarian for the ultra-nationalist Liberal Democratic Party, said yesterday that General Lebed would be summoned to testify before the Duma to answer charges of weakening Russia's security. "Before he left, Lebed spoke out against eastwards Nato expansion, but when he landed in Brussels he started saying how peaceful and civilised Nato is," the right-wing deputy said.

Vladimir Zhirinovsky, his party leader, was more blunt. He compared General Lebed to Mikhail Gorbachev, the former Soviet leader, who he said was seduced by the West. "While his paratroop divisions are being liquidated he is exchanging hugs with Nato generals in Brussels," Mr Zhirinovsky said.

The latest criticism comes after a torrent of invective directed towards the ambitious former paratrooper, whose naked desire to become President has earned him enemies in government circles as well as among opposition figures. Yuri Luzhkov, the powerful Mayor of Moscow, regarded as a contender for the presidency, compared General Lebed to Stalin.

Aleksandr Lebed, page 20
Leading article, page 21

BENOIT DOPPAGNE/REUTER



Jean-Marc Connerotte, the investigating magistrate who is being forced to drop the case

Sex case prosecutors face sack

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

PUBLIC anger over Belgium's child murder scandal reached a new pitch yesterday when the country's senior prosecutor called for the judicial investigator and local prosecutor to be removed from the case for accepting a free meal from supporters of the victims' families.

Eliane Liekendael, the state prosecutor, said it was with heavy heart that she felt legally obliged to advise the country's highest court to remove from the case Jean-Marc Connerotte and Michel Bourlet, the investigating magistrate and the prosecutor of Neufchâteau. A fresh wave of indignation has swept the country over the past week since the lawyer for Marc Dutroux, the man suspected of killing four girls and kidnapping two others, called for the pair to be taken off the case on the basis that they had compromised their objectivity by attending the dinner.

Mr Connerotte and Mr Bourlet had emerged as national heroes for their aggressive pursuit of a case that has brought the Belgian justice system and the state itself into severe disrepute. The Cour de Cassation, or supreme court, is to rule on Monday, but experts said it appeared that it would be legally obliged to take them off the case.

"I regret it, but the law requires his [Mr Connerotte's] removal," Mme Liekendael said.

The chief prosecutor's call was denounced yesterday by parents of the murdered children. "Four children are buried ten feet deep. Dutroux is undefendable, so they go and find legal hairs to split," said Gino Russo, the father of Melissa, one of two eight-year-olds starved to death by Mr Dutroux.

Gould in row with staff and students

FROM JO ANDREWS IN WELLINGTON

BRYAN GOULD, the former Labour MP, has become the first university Vice-Chancellor in New Zealand's history simultaneously to face a strike by academic staff and a threat of legal action by students.

Waikato University's academic and general staff went on strike yesterday in support of a 6 per cent pay rise. At the same time, the student union threatened to sue the university for a breach of contract for failing to provide lectures.

Their action comes as the student newspaper published more details of the £80,000 renovations done to the Vice-Chancellor's house and swimming pool since Mr Gould's appointment. The strike is being held in the last week of lectures before the end-of-year exams begin and three days before a general election. The student union estimates that about 500 students missed lectures and are threatening to sue the university.

Ben King, president of the Waikato Student Union, said: "It is the last week [before exams] and students have contracted with the university to get a full set of lectures. We can take a civil action against the university or the other thing we can do is to have a mass application for reconsideration of our grades."

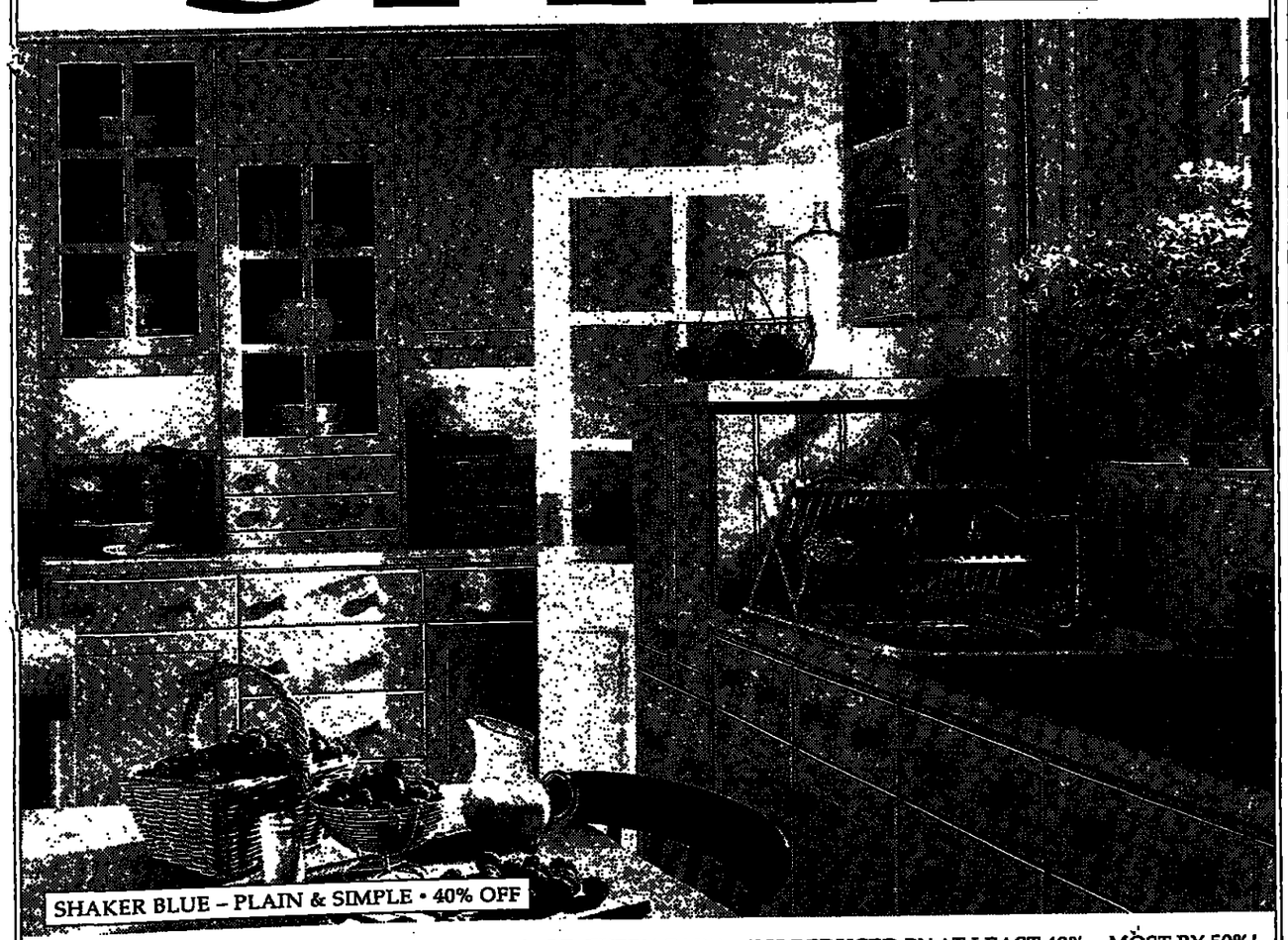
Mr Gould said: "I think it is very regrettable that some of our staff seem prepared to take action that jeopardises the interests of students."

Dr Raymond Richards, of the Association of University Staff, said members were disgusted that Mr Gould refused to negotiate academic salaries himself and had left it to the university's chief negotiator. He added: "There is increasing concern about all these horror stories about spending on his house and pool . . . If the university has got the money for that, it should have got the money to pay us."



Gould: £80,000 spent on house and pool

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Clinton's morality attacked in Dole change of tactics

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE American presidential campaign is finally heating up. As Al Gore and Jack Kemp prepared for last night's vice-presidential debate, Bob Dole unleashed his first really harsh attacks on Bill Clinton's character and morals.

The struggling Republican candidate assailed the President as a man whose "word's no good". He unveiled an advertisement blaming Mr Clinton for the nation's "moral crisis" and accused him of "playing around" as millions of young Americans turned to drugs or tobacco.

Asked by an interviewer whether Mr Clinton had the ethics and morals to be President, Mr Dole replied that it was a "very close question" and one that troubled him.

"I don't admire Bill Clinton, no," he told another interviewer. In a third interview, he regretted not raising the "Filegate" scandal during last Sunday's presidential debate, or pressing Mr Clinton harder on the issue of Whitewater pardons. He vowed to do so in their second debate next Wednesday. "There's no gag order on Whitewater," declared Nelson Warfield, his spokesman.

At a New Jersey rally, the Dole campaign produced Michael Chertoff, the chief counsel to the Republican-controlled Whitewater Committee, who recalled that Mr Clinton had promised the most ethical administration in American history.

ELECTION '96

"How many of that Administration are in jail now?" Mr Chertoff demanded. "How many members of that Administration had to resign in disgrace? Why does the White House spend more time hiding its files from subpoenas than it does pursuing drug dealers?"

At one point, Mr Dole called Mr Clinton a clown, telling a supporter: "Bozo's on his way out". It was an unfortunate remark, because President Bush called Mr Clinton and Mr Gore "Bozos" shortly before his crushing 1992 defeat.

The attacks contrasted sharply with Mr Dole's civility during Sunday's debate, when he refused the moderator's invitation to list Mr Clinton's personal flaws, declined to raise Whitewater, and admitted: "I happen to like President Clinton personally". However, Mr Dole did rebuke Mr Clinton for his failure to address Mr Bush as "Mr President" in the 1992 debates.

The Clinton camp drew the obvious conclusion. "It seems they've come to the realisation that nothing has worked for them in this campaign," said Joe Lockhart, the chief spokesman. "They're now resorting to desperate attacks that are destined to fail. It's unfortunate that somebody with Bob Dole's reputation for integrity would put his name to these kind of attacks."

Mr Dole's new aggression presented Mr Kemp, his running-mate, with a dilemma as he prepared for last night's debate in St Petersburg, Florida. Running-mates traditionally deliver the searing personal attacks so their bosses can stay above the fray. However, Mr Kemp is more interested in ideas and policies than negative campaigning, and joined Mr Dole's ticket on condition that he would not play "attack dog".

A Reuter poll has put Mr Dole just five percentage points behind Mr Clinton, but it was sharply out of line with others, which gave Mr Clinton leads of 22, 21 and 16 points.

☐ **Spending dispute:** Common Cause, an organisation that crusades for cleaner politics, demanded that a special prosecutor be appointed to investigate "the most massive violations of the campaign finance laws since the Watergate scandal". It said the Dole and Clinton campaigns had both spent tens of millions of dollars above their legal limit.

Irish famine compared to the Holocaust

New York schools to study 'evil of Britain'

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

THE New York State Governor has passed legislation which compares British conduct during the Irish famine to that of the Nazis during the Holocaust and has ordered that the disastrous potato blight of 1845-49 be taught in human rights courses in New York schools.

George Pataki, apparently embracing the Irish-American vote, said that "history teaches us the Great Irish Hunger was not the result of a massive failure of the Irish potato crop but rather was the result of a deliberate campaign by the British to deny the Irish people the food they needed to survive".

As a result, he said, he had ordered that the Irish famine be included in the New York schools curriculum.

The new law will specifically add the Irish famine to a list of human rights abuses, which is currently limited to slavery, genocide and the Holocaust.

It will become part of a body of law which requires the state's Board of Regents to prescribe school lessons in patriotism, citizenship and human rights issues. The latter will now teach young New Yorkers the evil intent of the British.

"More than one million men, women and children died as a result of this mass starvation," said the Governor, who is of Hungarian descent. "Millions more were forced to flee their native land to avoid certain death, while large quantities of grain and livestock were exported from Ireland to England.

"This tragic event had dramatic implications in the United States, where millions of Irish immigrants had a significant impact on every facet of American life and culture."

While few historians will deny that British politicians did not distinguish themselves during the Irish famine, the claim that their action, or lack of it, was on a par with Hitler's hatred for the Jews may prove more controversial.

Furthermore, Jewish lobbyists in the United States tend to guard jealously the status of the Holocaust as one of the greatest abuses of human rights.

Joseph Crowley, a state assemblyman who sponsored the legislation and is of Irish descent, said: "It is important that our students be educated as to the factual causes of one of the greatest calamities of humankind. Secondly, this law will stand as a living memorial to all those who suffered and died during *An Gorta Mor*, or Ireland's Great Hunger."

Mr Crowley added: "This lesson in humanity still needs to be taught. Hunger is still used as a tool of subjugation, as a means of keeping people down in places like Somalia, Ethiopia and China."

Another supporter of the Bill, Michael Hoblock, a state senator, said: "Being from Ukrainian ancestral ties, I am keenly aware of the necessity to inform New York's children of the injustices suffered by many of New York's ethnic population."

A spokesman for the Council for Basic Education, a Washington-based organisation, said yesterday that the effectiveness of legislation such as that which had been passed by Mr Pataki was open to question. "Teachers still have the last say in the classroom," he said.



An engraving of a family during the Irish famine, in the course of which more than a million people died

Conservative convert builds shrine to 'St Hillary'

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

HILLARY CLINTON is more sinned against than sinning, according to a new biography of the President's wife. The book, which gave White House officials sleepless nights before publication, has emerged as more hagiography than hatchet job, to the astonishment of both friends and foes of the Clinton Administration.

The Seduction of Hillary Clinton, published this week, was widely expected to be a no-holds-barred exposé of one of the most controversial presidential wives in American history. The author, David Brock, a conservative journalist, is best known for investigations into President Clinton's sex life and for a caustic treatment of Anita Hill, the woman who accused Clarence Thomas, the Supreme Court judge, of sexual harassment.

He has said that he began the Clinton book "thinking that the conservative caricature was correct: that she was a malevolent, corrupt, power-mad shrew". But while Mr Brock clearly came to mock, he stayed to pray, and has spent 450 pages building his subject into an appropriate idol. He argues that Mrs Clinton has unfairly been held to blame for her husband's failings. On Whitewater, he finds little proof that she abused her position at the Rose Law Firm to help her clients or herself. However, Mr Brock's critics say he offers no new evidence and dismisses "sometimes powerful" signs that Mrs Clinton lied about incidents in Arkansas and the White House.

Most of Mr Brock's sympathy for Mrs Clinton appears to stem from an uninhibited analysis of her pyschological state. "Despite her ... youthful accomplishments, there seems to have remained a kind of empty place or well of insecurity in Hillary," he argues. "Bill's perpetual philandering and cruel asides must have made her self-esteem all the harder to maintain."

He believes she persisted with what he calls a "flawed marriage" because "she has repeatedly succumbed to the seductive attraction of Bill Clinton himself". He dismisses the notion that reaching the White House, even through the role of First Lady rather than President, had powerful appeal.

Some critics suggest that he is trying to court the liberal press. Others say he is right: there simply is no new dirt to find.

155 journalists murdered

Los Angeles: A total of 155 journalists have been murdered in the Americas over the past seven years, according to a report by the Inter-American Press Association. The report said 62 were killed in Colombia; 19 in Mexico, 18 in Peru, 16 in El Salvador, 12 in Brazil, 12 in Guatemala, five in the United States, five in Venezuela, two in Haiti, two in Ecuador, one in Canada and one in Paraguay. (*AFP*)

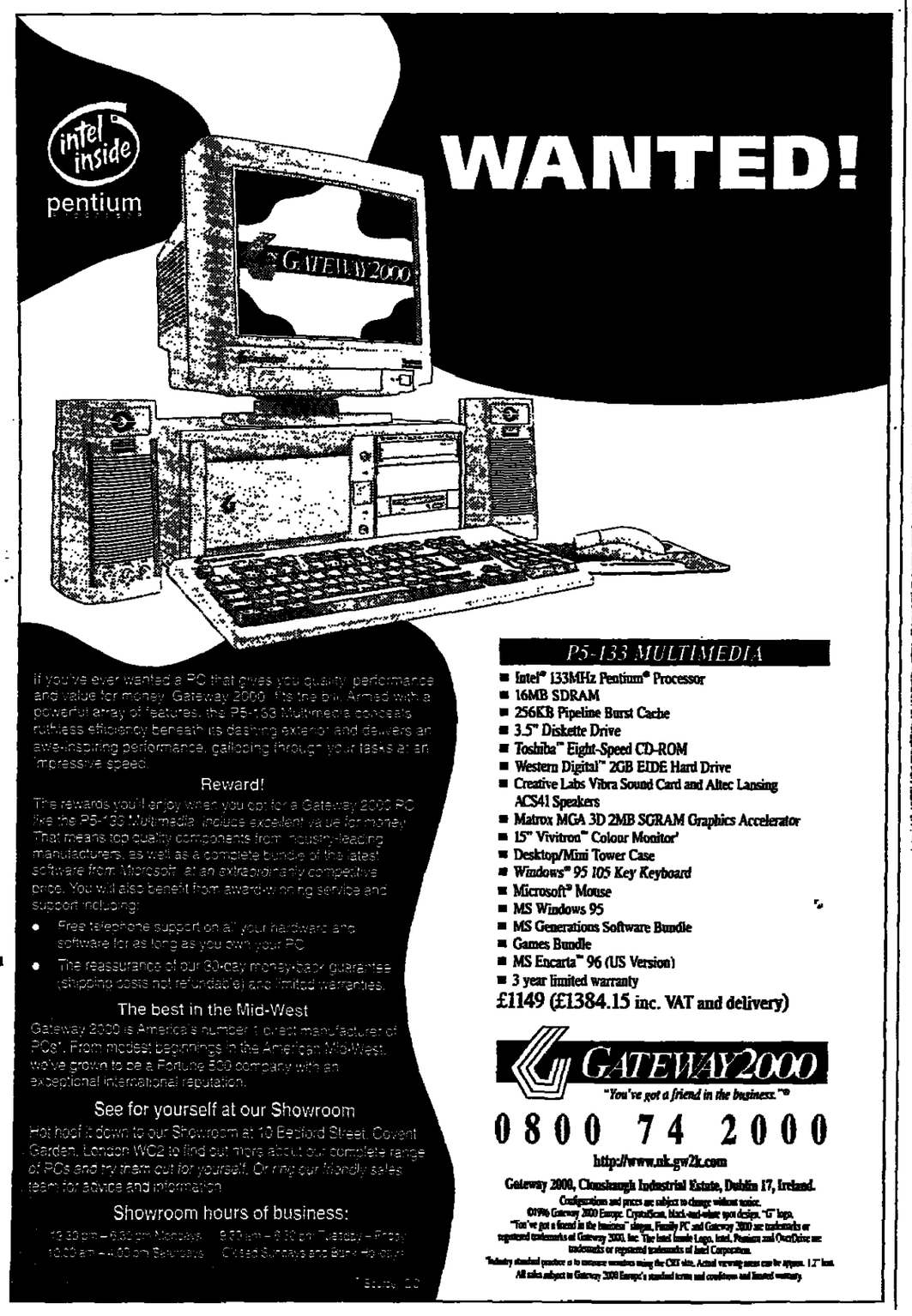
Burns resurrected as God

New York: Seven months after his death at the age of 100, the comedian George Burns has been cast as the star in a forthcoming Hollywood film (Quentin Letts writes).

Burns's face and the cigar-flavoured rasp of his voice will be re-created by computer gadgetry for *The Best Man*. Under a deal agreed between his family, his long-term manager, Irving Fein, and the film's producer, Scott Lane, the Burns estate will receive $20,000 (£12,800) for each minute that the late actor's features are shown on screen. Mr Lane has secured rights to the image that was George Burns.

Mr Lane said: "It's like a reverse *Forrest Gump*. Instead of inserting a real actor into newsreel footage, we'll be inserting a computer-generated George Burns into new scenes with live actors."

The re-created Burns will play one of his best-known roles, as God — allowing *The Best Man* to become a sequel to the 1977 hit film, *Oh God*.



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An old man's darling

There are two types of women who prefer older men: the smart and successful, and the babes. **Jason Cowley** reports



Women who are successful and articulate often prefer older men. The journalist Polly Samson married the veteran rock star Dave Gilmour

The youthful writer Cristina Odone was recently spotted stepping out with the grizzled broadcaster John Humphrys at the party to celebrate the rebirth of *Punch*. And she wasn't alone: no, it wasn't that Mr Humphrys was trailing women from his arms like streamers. It was just that the room seemed to be full of old men's darlings: young women cuddling up to men surely too old to be their husbands but behaving too flirtatiously to be their fathers.

Now I have nothing against Mr Humphrys. As a broadcaster, he is tough, resolute and only occasionally rebarbative. His voice is strong. His tanned skin is drawn tightly across his face, and his silver hair looks as if it is trimmed every day. And with his reassuring smile, he seems more like a benign uncle than a feared slayer of politicians' cant. In fact, if you were asked for one adjective to describe him you would surely choose avuncular: it's not hard to picture him at home in a cotton dressing-gown sipping a late-night mug of warm, sugared milk.

As for Ms Odone... well, she's not the kind of woman, one would have thought, to settle for being an old man's darling, even though she has lunched with Richard Ingrams, John Mortimer, Auberon Waugh and other self-styled oldies. The daughter of an Italian father and Swedish mother, Ms Odone combines exoticism with eroticism: a former editor of the *Catholic Herald* and with intellectual pretensions (her debut novel, *The Shrine*, is testament to that), she teases her many admirers by hinting how "very, very bad she would be were it not for her faith".

According to the psychotherapist Rachel White there are two kinds of old man's darling. The first are women such as Ms Odone, Polly Samson, the journalist who married veteran rock star Dave Gilmour, and Selina Scott. They are smart, articulate and successful, though they are seldom seen with men of their own age — perhaps because young men are intimidated by their formidable accomplishments.

The second kind is the babe, bimbo or good-time girl for whom physical attraction and companionship matter less than wealth and power. The American glamour model Anna Nicole Smith certainly fits the second category. She displayed an eye for the main chance when she married J. Howard Marshall, the octogenarian Texan billionaire.

Photographs of them have a grotesque fascination. The collagen and silicon-enhanced Anna Nicole seems always to be offering support to her frail husband. Perversely, they could almost be mother and son, so vulnerable does Marshall appear in her arms. Their relationship was the obverse of what has been called the "daddy syndrome"; it is Anna Nicole who is in control.





Stepping out: Cristina Odone and John Humphrys

Some of the most famous mistresses in history were old men's darlings — the actress Nell Gwyn, who hauled herself out of a life of servitude and poverty through her relationship with Charles II, Lily Langtry, and the first kiss-and-tell girl, Harriet Wilson. "Publish and be damned," the Duke of Wellington told the scheming Harriet when she threatened to expose him, among others, in her memoirs. She did publish, famously beginning her account thus: "I shall not relate how at the age of 12 I became the mistress of the Earl of Craven." Wellington later denied ever having known her.

The psychologist Dorothy Rowe says: "Until the early part of this century most women had no way of supporting themselves, unless they worked in domestic service, or as prostitutes, or had inherited money. So, of course, in those circumstances a successful older man is going to appear attractive — and useful. The same applies today: it is obviously advantageous for an aspiring young actress to have a boyfriend like a famous director since he offers more than someone of her own age ever could."

There is also the aspect of paternal security: "If a woman had a particularly good relationship with her father as a little girl, then she may be looking for protection and security in a relationship. As for the man, I'm afraid it all comes down to the fact that it makes him feel good to be seen with younger women. It also sends a signal to other men that not only is he attractive to beautiful women, but he is still sexually competent."

The writer and columnist Petronella Wyatt, 27, says there was a time when she would never look at a man unless he was at least 15 years older. "But I now think that you should grow out of preferring older men, because if you don't, then you're never going to grow up yourself. That said, I would never go out with a man in his twenties."

Well, to echo Philip Larkin, it's good to get that learnt.

Dressing for distress

So James Hewitt wasn't in that video — but he was in that shabby sweater, says **Nick Foulkes**

THE most interesting sartorial point to be raised by the now infamous hoax video of Diana, Princess of Wales and James Hewitt is not what was worn or not worn, but what Captain Hewitt was photographed wearing on Tuesday: a sweater with a hole.

The fact that a man branded a cad by the Establishment has now taken to wearing the scruffy clothes which embody the traditional "don't know, don't care" attitude of many English aristocrats towards fashion begs the question: is the hole real or fake?



James Hewitt and pullover

The capsule distressed wardrobe of the prototypical English gent must include at least one exhausted tweed jacket (preferably by Hawkes & Co before its amalgamation with Gieves), with leather binding on the cuffs and at least one prominent repair. Trousers should be of a grey worsted cloth, shiny with age. New suede shoes are distinctly caddish, but a highly scuffed pair of suede punched Oxfords, bought from Duckers in Oxford the Sixties, are acceptable.

The frayed shirt is the core of the look. Preferably a few fragments of the fabric remain at the collar, but most visible should be the white of the interlining. Cuffs — double of course — should be turned and frayed on both sides.

Scruffiness is a great English tradition. The immaculately dressed Duke of Windsor owned a spectacular corduroy jacket which he wore so much that the silk facings virtually detached themselves from the body of the jacket. Harold Macmillan never looked more patrician than at weekends in patched trousers.

The problem with such a look is that it takes time and not inconsiderable initial investment. Shabby shoes are great if they are Lobb, Foster, Wildsmith or Edward Green and have enjoyed several years' maturation. Likewise there are few items finer than an utterly clapped-out Savile Row suit.

But is Captain Hewitt guilty of picking a hole in his sweater? His favourite gents' outfitters is Hackett. "I wonder if it is one of our sweaters," muses chairman Jeremy Hackett. "If it is, he has been shopping at Hackett for years so the chances are the hole is genuine. Many of our customers like things they feel comfortable with."

Viewed in this light, it is perfectly feasible that in the face of ostracism and public opprobrium the once natty Captain has taken refuge in "comfort clothes" in much the same way that some depressed people binge on comfort foods such as chocolate and ice-cream.

OR IS it that the Captain is revealing his erudition? The academic John Bayley displays a heroic absentmindedness about his wardrobe, while that elegant publisher of literature in translation, Christopher MacLehose of Harvill, has been seen on occasion sporting a frayed collar.

However, Mr MacLehose hotly defends his shirts. "In all these years, nobody has complained about them hitherto," he says testily. What is more, he has a warning for those who try too hard to be shabby. "It is sheer affectation on anybody's part who makes a habit of it."

Captain Hewitt, you have been warned.

The servant problem

What would you do if you suddenly found yourself very, very rich? Buy a star sapphire? An exquisite house in the country? Present your dear old alma mater with a new library? Whatever form the luxury might take, the idea of riches is associated with large capital outlay and outrageous personal indulgence.

The rich are different, no doubt about it. Except, that is, when they are just like you and me. Or, indeed, when they *are* you and me. According to a government survey on family spending published today, in order to number yourself among the richest families in Britain, it is sufficient to command a nanny, a third car and a surprisingly modest outlay on wine. The very rich, one learns, spend £7.50 a week on the stuff, a sum which, though insufficient to cover the cost of a bottle of Sainsbury's Médoc, is more than three times the national average.

Of course, it is true that almost no one admits to being rich. But what the report has pinpointed is that however poor one may *feel*, certain things infallibly indicate prosperity — and chief among them is employing staff.

Fifty years ago, Evelyn Waugh wrote to Nancy Mitford in France, enclosing a picture of himself surrounded by old retainers. "If you lived here," replied Mitford, "you wouldn't dare have that photograph taken because having such millions of servants would be a sign of wealth and you'd be taxed accordingly."

But as the modern employer of staff digests the unexpected news of his official wealth, he (or she) will probably reflect that the cost of hiring someone to mind the children is only the beginning of the problem. It would be a bold head of household nowadays who dared to ask Tricia, the Australian wonder-nanny, to line up with the 25-year-old Croatian cleaning-lady for a team photograph.

The financial chasm between rich and poor may yawn as wide as ever, but class distinctions have dwindled and in doing so have created an extreme social dis-ease. Acutely aware of each other as Fellow Human Beings, we now find it impossible to cope with giving or receiving orders. Take the recent sad story of Lady Apsley and her housekeeper, Carole Parker. Mrs Parker took exception to Lady Apsley's manner which was, she felt, calculated to undermine her sense of self-worth. Indeed, so grievously undermined did she feel that she resorted to nicking the Apsley family heirlooms.

This is, of course, exactly what we are terrified of in our dealings with staff. Now that the notion of a hierarchy of master and servant is, rightly, taboo, we find ourselves employing people just like us. But we can't relax about it. Guilt and anguish come written into the contract of employment. We don't just want our domestic help to bring a smile to the baby's face and a sparkle to the cutlery. We want them to love us as well.

JANE SHILLING

There's no disguising problem toenails



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High dose of courage



Dr Thomas Stuttaford on the bravery of Linda McCartney; fighting meningitis; and the benefits in a pint of beer



PA

Linda McCartney, supported by Paul, went to America for high-dose chemotherapy when her breast cancer recurred

Patients with breast cancer have been looking rather quizzically at their doctors this week. The news that Linda McCartney had flown to California to have further treatment made them feel, not unnaturally, that life-saving treatment was available to the rich and powerful, but denied to those on the council estates.

Despite traditional treatment last year in Britain, Linda McCartney has had a recurrence of her breast cancer.

In America, over the past five years, high-dose chemotherapy for the treatment of breast cancer, when it has spread to distant parts of the body, has been adopted by many cancer specialists with an almost religious fervour.

It is this therapy which has lured Linda McCartney to California.

High-dose chemotherapy with stem cell transplantation has not yet passed through the randomised trial stage of development either in America or here, and so despite its popularity in America, where about a thousand patients are treated with it every year, it cannot yet be said to be of proven benefit.

Agreeing to high-dose chemotherapy is a brave decision, and not one to be taken without being fully aware of its unpleasant and dangerous nature.

About 5 per cent of the women having it will die from the treatment rather than their cancer.

A woman having this treatment should expect to be in hospital for three weeks, much of the time in intensive care, and she will probably feel ill for many months afterwards.

The procedure differs from unit to unit and in some the initial dose is repeated once the woman is strong enough, usually after about three weeks.

In high-dose chemotherapy, patients suffer all the usual side effects of chemotherapy, such as hair loss, nausea, vomiting, extreme tiredness and generally feeling rotten. In addition it will seriously damage the bone marrow and can cause complications to both the liver and heart.

The problem of bone marrow destruction is overcome by the transplantation of stem cells, derived from either the bone marrow or peripheral blood, but now usually obtained from the blood because it is the safer method.

Dr Ian Smith, consultant to the Royal Marsden Hospital, in London, said: "The jury is out on high-dose chemotherapy with transplantation.

"We won't know for about another two years whether it is of real benefit until the results of randomised trials set up in various centres report their results."

Dr Smith said there was adequate funding for the trials and that, in his opinion, British doctors are following a responsible course in not recommending distressing and dangerous treatment to patients until it could be shown to be of benefit.

Most of the trials set up here use the procedure recommended by Dr Bill Peters, of Duke University, North Carolina. But, at the Royal Marsden, high-dose chemotherapy is being tested in a *rather different way — a pump* has been devised which will give the patient a slow, continuous trickle of drugs. Results of the Marsden research are also, as yet, unknown.

Professor Tom Oliver, Professor for Clinical Oncology at the Royal Hospital (Bart's and London), said that the British approach to high-dose treatment was not so much conservative as judicious; for until the results of the trials were known, its value was uncertain. Both Professor Oliver and Dr Smith commented on an encouraging report from South Africa, but the nature of the trial meant that statistics from it could not be uncritically accepted.

The answer to the question: need Mrs McCartney have gone to America?, was provided by the London Clinic, the private hospital which treated Child B. Dr Len Price, the oncologist, was emphatic in his reply: "No. We practice high-dose chemotherapy with stem cell transplantation at the London Clinic. At the clinic we use seven anti-cancer drugs rather than the three advocated by Dr Peters. We also recommend two peripheral blood stem cell transplantations as a rule and, if need be, more.

"Most of the patients we see already have very advanced disease before we start treatment and without treatment there could only have been one end. Even so, we hope to offer *them a 20-25 per cent chance of* prolonging their life for several years."

Dr Price is in favour of treating patients with cancer of the breast, who are known to be at high risk, for future trouble, with early high-dose chemotherapy and not waiting for the problem to occur.

Dr Price acknowledges the usefulneess of random trials and that in this instance British doctors, like some of their American counterparts, were being too conservative. "In Britain we are, after all, at the bottom of the league table for the survival of breast cancer."

"Much of this trouble may be because we do not have enough medical oncologists to co-operate with the surgeons and radiotherapists, but perhaps some of our bad figures are the result of our conservative nature."

How the City helps to confront a killer disease



Workers in the City are supporting research

OF all the infectious diseases in Britain, meningitis is the most frightening. No age group is free from danger when an outbreak occurs in the vicinity. Parents and grandparents fear for the children, adolescents are concerned for their friends as well as themselves and everybody is aware that although the disease is more common in children and adolescents, it can attack at any age.

The anxiety meningitis instils in a community is not only because of the numbers it kills but because of the nature and speed of the death. Last year a middle-aged woman, the sister of one of my patients, told her husband at breakfast before he went off to work that she thought she was sickening for flu. By tea-time meningococcal septicaemia had been diagnosed and later that evening she died.

This patient had been immediately and correctly diagnosed by her own doctor and given emergency penicillin before being admitted to hospital, but even so it was too late to save her life. It is easy to kill all the meningococci with antibiotics but counteracting the damage done to a system by the bacterial toxins which were causing the septicaemia is almost impossible.

Meningococci are common bacteria: one in ten people at any one time has the organism in their nose or throat but nobody knows why it should suddenly turn lethal.

When a disease is so difficult to diagnose, and kills so quickly, vaccination against it is the obvious medical answer. There are already vaccines against infections caused by meningococci groups A and C but, unfortunately, in Britain the most common group is meningitis B. As yet there is no effective vaccination against the strains of Group B meningococci found in the United Kingdom.

In other parts of the world which have strains of Group B meningococci there are useful vaccines. Doctors in Cuba claim to have eradicated Group B meningococci by vaccination and the injection has also proved to be effective in other South American countries.

Professor Michael Levin, who treats meningitis cases at St Mary's Hospital in London, is anxious to test the vaccine which has proved effective in South America against the strain of meningitis or meningococci Group B found in Britain. It is planned to carry out experiments to see if blood taken from Cuban children who have been vaccinated against meningitis would kill the British strains of the organism. If the experiment is successful, time being spent on British trials would be dramatically reduced and lives saved.

Funds were needed for Professor Levines work, so he approached the medical charity Remedi. Remedi had contacts with the October Club, a group of archetypal young City men who have raised nearly a million pounds for medical research in the past nine years. Next week the October Club is meeting at The Savoy where it hopes to raise enough money to finance the St Mary's project. If successful, club members will have reached their target of a million in nine years. But, what is more important, is they may well have brought the time nearer when parents don't have to search for the early signs of meningitis (fever, vomiting, neck stiffness, headache, drowsiness, irritability and distinctive small red spots) every time their child has a cold.

Forbidden fruit from the hedges

A REPORT this week shows that the destruction of the British hedgerow, with all its autumnal fruiting trees, continues apace. Some older hedgerows have been growing for a thousand years and at this time of year contain a wide variety of berries.

Many berries, such as blackberries and hips, are nutritious but others contain complex organic chemicals which have evolved to deter humans and animals from eating them. Human metabolism hasn't adapted so well to dealing with poisons in plants as has that of many wild animals. Consequently humans, and young children in particular, are in greater danger. Every parent knows daphne and black nightshade are deadly, fewer that Virginia creeper and horse chestnuts can also cause trouble.

If it is suspected that children have been eating unwisely in the garden or along hedges, it helps to make them sick immediately, and they must be taken at once to a casualty department. The casualty officer's job is made easier if evidence of what the child has eaten is also brought along.

Each district has a poisons unit which can give expert advice to emergency services, and volumes such as the *Oxford Text Book of Medicine* contain lists of all common poisonous plants and their antidotes.

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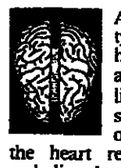
THERE is good news from America for those who enjoy a glass of stout. The advantages of drinking red wine, two to four glasses a day, are now becoming universally accepted. But it had been thought that beer was only beneficial as a cardio protective drug because of the alcohol it contained.

Research workers in the United States have now shown that dark brown beers *like Guinness, as well* as red wine, contain flavonoids which, when acting as antioxidants, are thought to reduce the risk of coronary arterial disease.

It seems unlikely, however, that Guinness will resurrect its pre-war advertising campaign designed to persuade doctors to tell their patients that Guinness was good for them.

At the time the complex world of flavonoids and their role as naturally occurring oxidants in protecting tissues from free radicals was unknown, but now that the mechanism is understood, it will be reassuring when enjoying a pint of Guinness at the George and Dragon to know that some scientists really do believe that it might be good for the coronary arteries.

Strokes could be prevented



A PARTICULAR type of irregular heartbeat known as fibrillation is liable to cause a stroke. The disordered action of the heart results in small emboli — clots — escaping into the cerebral circulation, but the danger from these clots can be reduced if the patient is treated with adequate doses of anti-coagulant drugs.

Research published in *Pulse* magazine shows that only a half of "younger" pensioners whose hearts are fibrillating receive adequate treatment. Of those over 74, even fewer are properly treated, even though the risk of a stroke is higher.

Dr Mark Sudlow, of the Medical Research Council, estimates that the correct use of anti-coagulants would prevent 9,000 strokes a year.

A review in the medical magazine *Monitor* has also investigated the unnecessary loss of life from strokes caused by inadequate treatment.

The reviewer suggests that the lesson to be learnt from new research is that if anti-coagulation is to be prescribed, it should be done properly. Treatment with the anti-coagulant Warfarin, properly monitored, is recommended as the therapy of choice.

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Bacon falls violently in love

Day four: Bacon's obsessive affair with the self-destructive Peter Lacy takes him to Tangier, where the artist, tortured by sexual jealousy, finds comfort in casual beatings in dark alleys



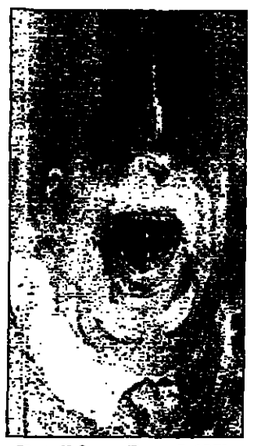
FRANCIS BACON *REVEALED*

Bacon was near 40 when he fell in love for the first time. He met Peter Lacy in the Colony Room, a newly-opened Soho drinking club, and, as Bacon described it, their mutual attraction was anomalous from the start. "What Peter really liked was young boys. He was actually younger than me, but he didn't seem to realise it. It was a kind of mistake that he went with me at all. Of course, it was the most total disaster from the start. Being in love in that extreme way — being totally, physically *obsessed* by someone — is like having some dreadful disease. I wouldn't wish it on my worst enemy."

Lacy had the advantage, like Eric Hall before him, of inherited money, which allowed him for most of his life not to work. Because of this, according to Bacon, "he felt the futility of life all the more clearly". Lacy had also been a fighter pilot in the Battle of Britain; and afterwards he became a test pilot for a while. "All these things obviously shatter your nerves," Bacon reflected, long after Lacy's death. "Most of the time Peter was terribly neurotic, even hysterical."

Part of the most intense period of their relationship (which Bacon characterised as "four years of continuous horror, with nothing but violent rows") was lived — again uncharacteristically for the artist — in the country, not far from Henley-on-Thames. Bacon recalled Lacy's invitation to come and live with him there: "Of course, he hated my painting right from the beginning, and he said, 'You can leave your painting and come and live with me.' And I said: 'What does living with you mean?' And he said: 'Well, you could live in a corner of my cottage on straw.' He wanted to have me chained to the wall. Peter was very kinky in all sorts of ways. He liked to have people watching as we had sex. But he was so neurotic that living together would never have worked." Even if Bacon did not accept the invitation to move in, he was a frequent visitor, and he even managed to get some work done by setting up a makeshift studio in a conservatory.

Bacon's need to paint, then, had proved even stronger than his obsessive passion for Lacy. In 1953, Bacon completed 21 paintings, the most he had ever painted in a year. It was now that Bacon's obsession with the Pope theme took hold. *Study for Portrait* became the first in a series of eight fully recognisable pontiffs — caught as if in successive frames on a film. This was the longest series Bacon had ever undertaken, and it confirmed his bent for working in variations on a theme, a practice that came naturally to someone of his obsessive temperament. The first portrait remains the most precisely descriptive, with its steady, mournful gaze, and, as the series continues, so the portraits grow freer, until the figure radiates a kind of wild hysteria. In this respect, it is tempting to think that as Bacon worked he transposed some of his feelings about his alarmingly neurotic lover, Lacy, whose surface calm would suddenly erupt into uncontrollable rage.



Detail from *Pope I*, 1951: the series exposes Bacon's feelings about his lover

When questioned about this series, Bacon replied, jocularly, that he had nothing against Popes, and that he merely "wanted an excuse to use those colours". In retrospect, this sounds deliberately disingenuous, as if the artist wanted to avoid any explanation. It may be that he himself did not know why he was so obsessively drawn towards depictions of the Pope, but it indubitably went beyond the attraction of a particular colour.

In the Pope, one might say, the two most important elements in life for Bacon, the erotic and the aesthetic, were intertwined, and it seems reasonable to suppose that is why he was drawn to the theme so repeatedly and why it gave rise to some of his greatest images, such as the magnificent *Study* of a screaming Pope done after the Velazquez portrait in that same productive year, 1953. In this picture, the pleated curtains of the backdrop are made to fall through the Pope's face, as if its flesh hung in folds: this is a peculiarly Baconian conceit, like the use of safety-pins and blind tassels or, later, lightbulbs and arrows.

Although he enjoyed being physically dominated, Bacon instinctively sought the upper hand in all his important relationships. He could be whipped and physically abused, but by his toughness and intelligence he kept ultimate control. With Lacy, he had lost it spectacularly. He could withstand the violence and the rows, the scenes which ended with him being beaten up, his clothes destroyed and his paintings slashed; there were sides of it he positively relished. But he was kept, mentally as well as physically, in thrall: being less in love, Lacy seemed stronger and freer, and the pangs of sexual jealousy tormented Bacon as intensely as any Furies he had known. Naturally promiscuous but above all devoted to his own destruction, Lacy kept always slightly out of reach. The *folie à deux* raged within its own pain and degradation. By the time of the first *Van Gogh* portraits, it had reached an inevitable impasse. But when Lacy left for Tangier, that did not stop Bacon from following him.

Tangier acted like a magnet for homosexuals during the 1950s. The Moroccan port offered not only acceptance but widespread acquiescence in matters of sexual preference. The sight of crowds of native men in brilliantly coloured jellabas strolling hand in hand together through the town would have been particularly alluring to foreign homosexuals forced to hide their affections.



JOHN DEAKIN



HELMAR LERSKI

The doomed and damaged Peter Lacy, left, dominated the younger Bacon, right, and his death continued to haunt the artist in his portraits

Bacon's hangout in Tangier was Dean's Bar. Dean was a mellifluously spoken black man of mysterious origins who seemed born to run a bar. For Lacy, Dean's had become a place of near enslavement; and it marked the beginning of his last, rapid decline. Whatever his means when Bacon first took up with him in the early 1950s, they had dwindled to the point where he was obliged to "tinkle the ivories" in Dean's virtually day and night in order to eke out an existence.

"Periodically Peter got very drunk," recalls David Herbert, a long-time resident of Tangier, "and on one of his benders he took a knife and slashed three-quarters of the paintings that Francis had been working on the previous six months. Francis took it quite calmly: in fact he seemed almost pleased." The British Consul-General in Tangier, Bryce Nairn, became worried because "Francis was frequently found by the police beaten up in some street in Tangier in the early hours of the morning". Herbert goes on, "Bryce complained to the chief of police and asked to have more police on duty in the darker alleys. A few weeks passed; the beatings continued. Then the chief called on Bryce and said, 'Pardon, Monsieur le Consul-Général, mais il n'y a rien à faire. Monsieur Bacon aime ça.'"

Bacon brought back very little from his lengthy stays in Tangier: he abandoned numerous works in progress,

> 'He liked to have people watching as we had sex'

and either he or Lacy destroyed most of the others. But the whole atmosphere and the luminosity of Morocco marked him deeply. There can be no doubt that the explosion of strong colours in the *Van Gogh* series is at least partly attributable to Bacon's experience of the North African light (just as Van Gogh's own palette took on a new intensity after his arrival in Arles). In *Van Gogh in a Landscape*, Bacon has actually used a view of the countryside outside Tangier, which impressed him so much that it later became the sole subject of a wonderfully mysterious painting called *Landscape near Malabata, Tangier*. Dated 1963 and painted in London, this picture in fact had a deeply personal importance for the artist: it was in that landscape that Lacy had been buried.

The Tangier interlude and Bacon's affair with Lacy was to last for another couple of years. "Peter had been very tough when I first knew him. Then he fell for this Moroccan boy, and after he went off and lived in Tangier he lost that toughness. I think it had something to do with the Arab window, and he was terribly good-looking.

"Then Peter came back and found us both in bed, and he got so absolutely mad he went round and broke every single thing in the place. I had to go out and try and spend the night on the beach.

"Peter by that time was drinking three bottles of whisky a day, which no one can take. He was killing himself with drink. He set out to do it, like a suicide, and I think in the end his pancreas simply exploded. After that disastrous trip, I had no news of him until that exhibition at the Tate."

News of Lacy's death was among the telegrams that arrived to congratulate the artist on the opening day of his Tate retrospective. Bacon had never come to terms with the self-destructive passion that had drawn him to Lacy nor with the latter's rejection of him; and now that he was dead, Bacon was inconsolable. He saw Lacy's death as a suicide, and he interpreted the fact that it had coincided with his opening as a deliberate extra punishment, as if he had to atone for the violence of his art in personal misfortune. The artist was convinced that the voracious Fury-like shapes on an orange ground that dominated the first room of the exhibition still pursued him.

In his grief, Bacon attempted several times to bring his dead friend back to a kind of life through the act of portraying him. In both named and unnamed portraits, Lacy seems to be struggling to surface through the damaging smears of paint that blind an eye or excise an ear. Lacy himself had become part of the artist's own myth of guilt and retribution. He began to picture himself too, in his first acknowledged self-portraits, in a last spasm of raging pink flesh and black shadow before dissolution. Indeed, from this point in his development, when portraits of people became so central to his work, each portrait was painted as if it might be the last.

● Francis Bacon: Anatomy of an Enigma *by Michael Peppiatt. Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20*

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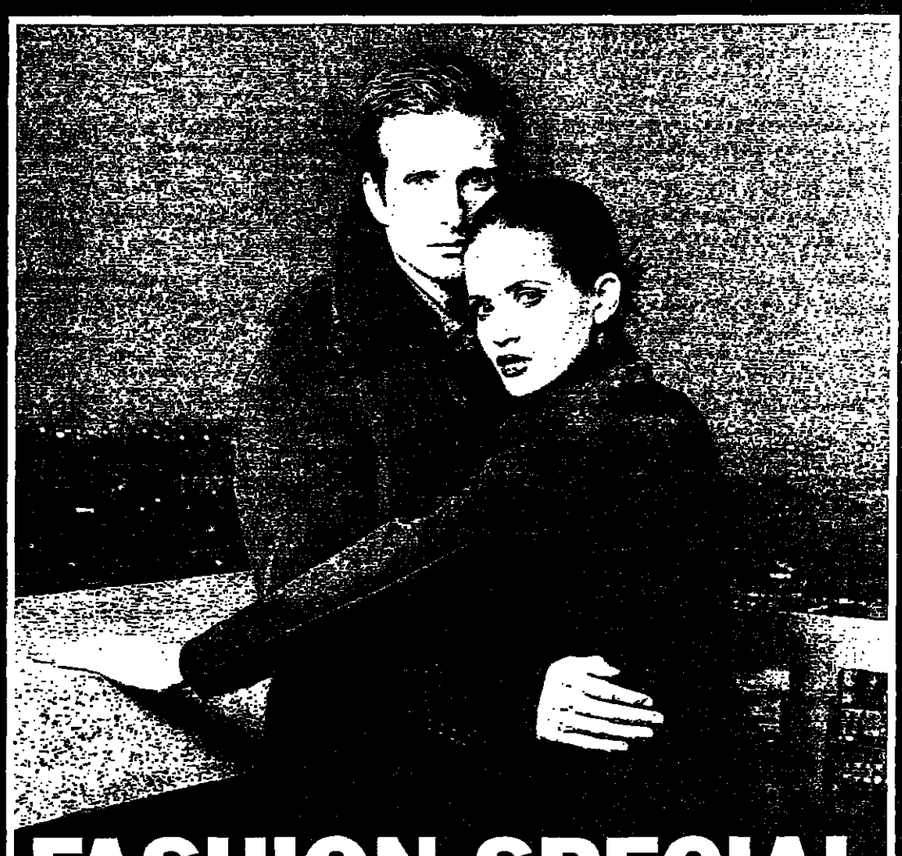
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THE SUNDAY TIMES



FASHION SPECIAL

"What really divides the Brit from the Euro is his wardrobe . . ." 32-page men's fashion extra in The Sunday Times Magazine this weekend

ZOË HELLER at a Hollywood tribute gala

"The biggest suckers when it comes to the business of show and all its hideous, cornball clichés are invariably the studio execs themselves"

KEITH WATERHOUSE on a grown-up Huck Finn

"When Huck Finn came to the town of Foxburg that morning he was a boy, and when he went to bed near enough the follering morning, he was a man"

THE SUNDAY TIMES *IS* THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Sitting at the window in Bournemouth

Peter Stothard assesses the Tory party conference: a decent show, but lacking the necessary force

Bournemouth brings out the natural nostalgia of the Conservative Party. Blackpool and Brighton are alien places which Tories take over from time to time: Bournemouth is a delicate blue even when the Tories are not here. The promenades maintain that exotic seaside spirit which the local hero, Thomas Hardy, described more than a century ago. It is still the otherworldly town in which Tess of the d'Urbervilles tried to hide from her problems. If John Major and Margaret Thatcher were to kiss anywhere, could any site be more suitable than this Disneyland of the 1870s, with its tropical trees, fanciful residencies and magical attractions for the ill-starred? If the Conservatives had to choose anywhere to stare defeat in the face, nowhere could be better than here among the comforting chintz and china.

The Tories this week have been polite and determined. They have made a decent attempt at brushing to one side the corruption charges against their colleagues and friends. They have been unexpectedly self-controlled for the most part on the European issues which are tearing their party apart. But every act of Victorian restraint has taken place in a cool, laboratory-like atmosphere. It is hard to believe that the hostile national mood is going to be changed from here.

In Hardy's "Mediterranean lounging place on the English Channel", the problem of a European currency inevitably feels closer than it was by the cold seas of Blackpool at Labour's conference last week. In some representatives, the resulting emotion is a resigned deference. Malcolm Rifkind was heard yesterday with the sort of conference-hall respect that Conservative Foreign Secretaries used to be used to. The Prime Minister commanded rapt attention for his explanation of why a single currency should not be ruled out. But for others, on the fringe and on the fringe of the fringe, Britain's relationship with the Continent is a subject too corrosive to be contained. As night falls over the fairylights and domes, the anger, like the townscape, is more imposing still: there is a real sense of guilt — churned over and chatted about at every level — that the party is letting down the country in order to keep the Government alive.

> It is hard to believe that the hostile national mood is going to be changed from here

Not even the first Mrs Thomas Hardy, the one who found *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* obscene and *Jude the Obscure* a scandal, could have found much fault with Tory discipline over the past two days. Norman Tebbit, who is still remembered fondly for his leadership at another difficult Bournemouth conference, a decade ago, restricted his civil warfare to an assault on European Commissioner, Sir Leon Brittan. Even the youth movement has lost the heart to make a fuss; its leaders find better prospects, as well as old Thatcherite friends, with Sir James Goldsmith. There is a Bournemouth programme, a string of stale Bournemouth jokes ("Labour will be for open government what stakeholding was to Dracula": Ian Lang yesterday), but there is no passion, nothing that would make the ordinary Bournemouth holidaymakers smell politics if they did not know already that politics was here.

Bournemouth has long been a town which wealthy tourists visit year after year, where they meet their friends and stay for a few weeks among the gazebos and the palm trees. In Hardy's transparent placename code it was Sandbourne, situated on the edge of his fictional Wessex, a rapidly expanding boomtown that was already almost beyond the confines of the rural world. Even when it rained here, it was soft rain: "like silken strings", as he wrote in a poem of 1875.

In 1986, the Tebbit year of reconstruction after the Westland débâcle, I remember a Bournemouth full of excited Tory activists and ministers who were genuinely pleased to be here. Cabinet members seemed relaxed when meeting one another, talking as though they had things to say. This year everyone looks as though he or she is just off somewhere else. The abiding image is of a minister with one arm in his coat, the other arm waving to someone behind or ahead. In 1996, this is not a political destination; it is a waiting room.

Those awaiting next year include the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Kenneth Clarke, who no longer even attempts on the platform to conceal his sighs and sneers at speeches of which he disapproves. He did clap yesterday as a representative complained of interference in Britain from Brussels, but it was the weary clap of the headmaster when the school troublemaker wins a prize, the headmaster whom the school governors dare not fire. For those on the right of the Cabinet, the height of rhetorical ambition is to seem like a decent minister for the next few months and a dynamic party leader for the next few years. Michael Howard's speech on Tuesday was a fine example of the genre. Michael Portillo, with the dangers of excess dinned into his head from last year, will try the same trick today. But no speech of that kind can stop the breath or fire the blood.

The Prime Minister spoke yesterday like a husband trying to understand the marital relationship that he has lost. He was modest and reasonable. For a few moments he swept away the troublesome Cabinet and the unappreciative country. He told the representatives that they were "the heart and soul"; if he could have kissed every one of them he would have done.

On a much-discussed visit to Bournemouth in 1875, Hardy wrote a poem about his own newly difficult marriage. In "We Sat at the Window", he describes a miserable day when even the most "silken strings" of the south coast were unbearable. "We were irked by the scene, by each other: yes," he wrote, in lines long pored over by biographers.

Later, working as his own literary spin-doctor, he revised the piece. "We were irked by the scene, by our own selves; yes," he wrote, in an attempt to persuade himself, it seems, that Mr and Mrs Hardy had separate problems rather than a problem that threatened their relationship. The original, however, turned out to be the more accurate portrait. Mr Major and his party can certainly put on a decent show for a few days in Bournemouth. Real unity, however, is far away. Only brute force and passion will fight Labour down from its heights of popularity. And brute force is no more part of Bournemouth's spirit this week than it has been in any other week of its history.

Aleksandr Lebed, who hopes to succeed Boris Yeltsin, threatens to name Russia's guilty men

How I made peace with the Chechens

There have been no hostilities in Chechnya for almost a month now. This is due to accords which I signed in Khasavyurt, Ingushetia, with the chief of staff of the Chechen opposition armed forces, Asia Maskhadov. But it does not mean that the armed conflict is over.

The accords stipulate the signing of two more documents, which we have defined as the framework of relations: on Chechnya's status and on the delineation of powers between Russia and Chechnya. The republic's status is thus far defined by the Russian constitution, according to which Chechnya is a member of the Russian Federation. Under the Khasavyurt agreements, its permanent status is to be determined by the year 2001. I think this was the correct decision. Such decisions must be adopted in cold blood, proceeding from international practices, laws, procedures and regulations — methods which have already proved their value.

Life will take its course over the next five years: the process of restoration and construction will begin, and the situation will be appraised soberly. Much will depend on how productively and constructively the Russian bodies of state power work.

Serious talks are needed on the second provision of the Khasavyurt agreements, but it is unclear at present with whom they should be conducted. Russia does not recognise the separatist leader Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, while the Chechen opposition does not recognise the official leader of the republic, Doku Zavgayev.

A coalition government is needed to begin preparations for winter, restore gas and water supplies, mend the roofs and so forth, and to carry out detailed preparations for free elections. These elections are to be monitored by Russian and international observers. When a legitimate leader is elected, it will be possible to talk with him on any issue, including the distribution of powers between Russia and Chechnya.

Many hotheads think it will be easy to form a coalition government and to tackle the many problems, from restoration of the devastated economy to provision of pensions and other benefits, creation of jobs and payment of wages. But things are not so easy as they think. I am sure, however, that the Chechens will be able to come to an agreement. Among them here are intellectuals and professional executives who are perfectly capable of handling these difficult but soluble problems of transition.

The Russian public's reaction to the Khasavyurt agreements differs. The reaction of politicians is negative rather than positive. I have virtually been accused of betraying Russian interests. The country's leadership has not given a clear-cut appraisal of this document. The Minister of Justice, Valentin Kovalev, has challenged its legal and political status. His position is rather strange, to put it mildly, as hostilities have been stopped, in keeping with the document, which allegedly "has no legal force".

Another thing also seems strange to me. Many people, including politicians, were screaming "stop the war" — until recently. Once peace had been established (a rather timid, uncertain and so far short-lived peace, I admit, but nonetheless one that gives hope for the future), we discovered that no one but soldiers' mothers and officers' wives wanted it. No one is in a hurry to strengthen it or to take any political or economic steps to make it truly irreversible and so bring the situation back to normal. None of the critics of the Khasavyurt accords has come up with a single constructive proposal for terminating this meaningless war.

Russia has, for the second time, stepped on the same rake. The first time was in Afghanistan. There, we began the war with lofty aims in mind but ended up with a war against the people. The same has happened in Chechnya. Many are fighting, not because they like any particular regime but to avenge their dead relatives and ruined homes. No military leader, even a genius, has ever won a war against the people. The war must be stopped resolutely with tough measures, and a political dialogue should begin. There is no other solution to this military conflict. That is why I reject all talk of Russia's integrity and indivisibility. Is it possible to ensure the integrity of Russia by killing hundreds and maiming thousands of people every day? And yet my critics claim that to stop the war by civilised methods is a threat to the country's integrity. On the contrary, it should be the other way around.

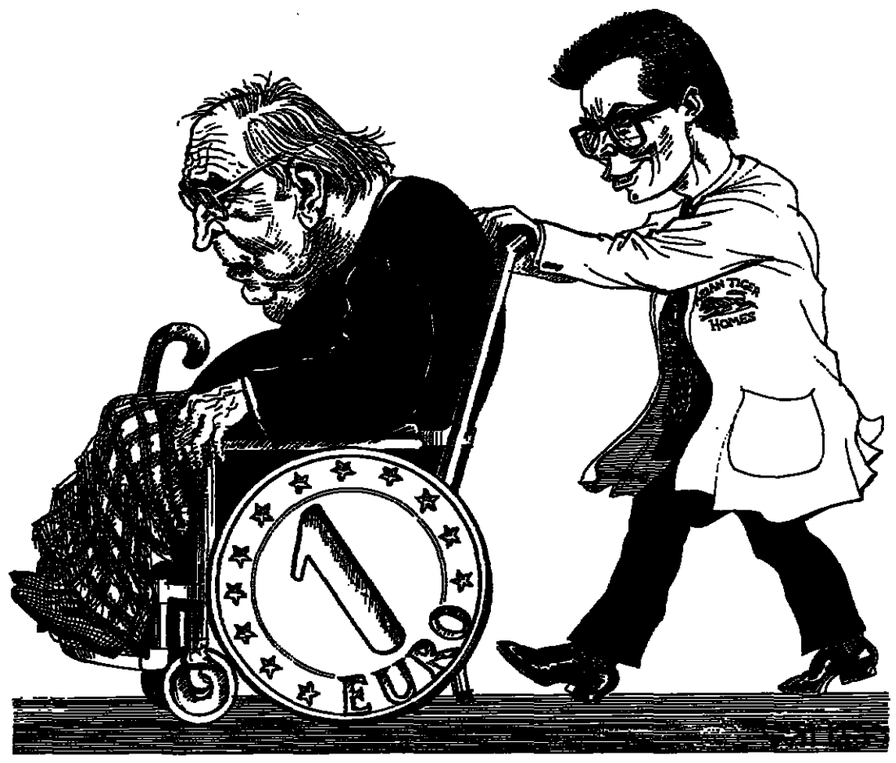
I am often asked if I know who was responsible for this war. Yes, I know all of them by name. I am also sure that this war has economic roots camouflaged in politics. Now is not the time to name these people, because it is still quite possible that the war will resume with fresh force and on an even larger scale. First, we must stop the slaughter and return to peaceful life. Only then will the prosecutors decide the degree of each perpetrator's responsibility. Whatever others may say, I am sure that the Chechen war is over for Russia.

The author is Secretary of President Yeltsin's Security Council.

An impoverished currency

Economic weakness in much of Europe means the euro is doomed

William Rees-Mogg



The argument for the gold standard was a simple one: it preserved the long-term value of money. Between 1799 and 1899, the purchasing power of the pound, convertible for most of the period into gold sovereigns, rose by 10 per cent; between 1899 and 1997, with Britain having gone off the gold standard in 1931, it has fallen by 98 per cent. This decline has done great harm to Britain; it destroyed the value of monetary savings; it reduced investment and threw onto the mercies of the State many people who would otherwise have been able to look after themselves.

The euro is supposed to start on January 1, 1999, with at least six member countries, France, Germany, Austria, Belgium, The Netherlands and Luxembourg. The question the Germans are asking is whether the euro will be as good as the mark. That concerns Hans Tietmeyer, the president of the Bundesbank. "It is important," he said on Monday, "that the member countries do not just reach the criteria through a breathless short-term effort with one-off results quickly coupled together." Yet the euro can never be as good as the mark. Currencies are supported by the economic and financial strengths of the nations which issue them, and by the cultural attitudes of their people. The first group of euro-participants will not be able to put behind the new currency the strength Germany has put behind the mark. By the standards of the mark, the Swiss franc or the yen, the euro will not be a triple-A currency. By the standards of gold, it deserves no more than a C.

Although the pound has lost 98 per cent of its purchasing power in this century, gold, as in earlier centuries, has maintained or slightly increased its purchasing power. At current values, the gold sovereign is worth about £60 and has fully compensated for the long-term inflation of paper money. The euro is just another paper currency. The only questions are how much value it will lose, and how fast.

The Brussels assumption is that all the members of the EU will eventually join the single currency. That is why they talk about the "ins" and the "pre-ins": they do not expect any country to remain permanently out. It is also assumed that the European Union will expand to the East, bringing in Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary and probably Slovakia. What sort of basis would such a Europe provide for a single currency?

The candidate nations of Eastern Europe have a combined population of 65 million, most of whom are poor. The present EU population is about 350 million. The East German population, which is still placing a heavy burden on the German economy, is only 17 million. The new candidate nations are therefore the equivalent of four East Germanys, or roughly the same proportion to the population of the EU as East Germany was to Germany as a whole. The EU is not as rich as Germany, and has existing regional problems, including Ireland, Portugal, Greece, Southern Spain and Southern Italy, with a combined population of at least another 50 million. A quarter of the bigger EU will be poor.

Europe's population is ageing. Of the existing 15 members, only Ireland is at a replacement level in live births. By the second quarter of the next century, Europe's population will be in absolute decline. As most of the continental pension schemes are unfunded, this large growth in the numbers of retired people will put pressure on budgets. Like the United States, but unlike the countries of Asia, Europe has inadequate savings rates, so many of these pensioners will not be able to look after themselves.

The euro suffers these prospective burdens of 100 million poor people and perhaps 100 million pensioners. Yet that is only the start of Europe's problems. The whole economy has for 20 years been steadily losing competitiveness in industrial exports relative to Asia and in high technology products relative to the United States. If one compares the three major industrial areas of the world, Asia, North America and Europe, it is Europe that is falling behind. In 15 years' time, industrial Germany could well have become the rust-bowl of Europe, and Europe could be the rust-bowl of the world.

Strong currencies have always been based on strong economies. If one looks back on the modern history of strong currencies — the pound, the dollar, the yen, the mark itself — they have all been based on periods of great national economic strength. The pound was the dominant currency when Britain was the workshop of the world; the dollar was dominant in the period of American industrial supremacy after the Second World War, the yen rose in strength when Japan was the leading power in world exports. If Europe continues to be a high-tax, high-cost, high-unemployment and low-competitiveness area, it is inconceivable that the euro will become a strong currency. Yet the social and political forces which are resisting change in Europe, are extremely powerful.

There will also be specific currency crises. One of the most likely is the return to world energy shortages which caused the inflation of the 1970s. The Asian economy, of some three billion people, is expanding three or four times as fast as the Europeans. Asia will increasingly be in competition with Europe for all scarce raw materials, including oil. Even the present Middle Eastern anxieties have pushed the oil price back up to $25 a barrel. The Middle East is likely to remain a political earthquake zone. A major oil shock is more likely than not to occur at sometime in the next ten to 15 years, and if the euro is the weakest big currency, the euro will suffer the worst inflation.

There is also the cultural question. Already the European Union, which sometimes seems to be so Germanic, is a political society in which German speakers are in the minority, and German Protestants — the élite group of German discipline — in an even smaller minority. Even if one thought that the centre of gravity of the new Europe would be German, which could be a mistake, it would not be Frankfurt, let alone Berlin, but Munich. The existing 15 nations are in the majority Latin, Catholic, Mediterranean, or at least Southern. The addition of nearly 40 million Polish Catholics will emphasise this Catholic cultural predominance, even if the Catholic Church itself is in decline in Europe. Historically, Latin, Catholic and Mediterranean nations have not had the stern self-discipline that a strong currency requires.

There is finally the issue of taxation. All paper currencies are based on the taxing power of the nation that issues them. But Europe is not yet a nation, and may never become one. The validity of the Euro depends on the 15, or the 19, taxing themselves as though they were a single country. It also depends on present systems of tax collection remaining viable in the electronic age. The Internet is moving into money transfers. The cost of Internet encryption software, which cannot be read by tax authorities, has now fallen to $120. And governments cannot tax transactions which they cannot identify.

Most of those who understand the developments in information technology expect there to be a deep, worldwide erosion of taxing capacity in the next ten years. Because the European nations have very high government expenditure, including welfare and pensions, they are more tax-dependent than Asian or North American countries. If the ability to tax and the willingness to be taxed are both in decline, and European social expenditures are still rising, the euro will not have the revenue base to support it. Already the convergence criteria have demonstrated that there is a budget problem throughout Europe.

The euro will never be one of the world's strong currencies, and it could be a currency disaster. It has too many problems, short-term and long-term. It will not enjoy particularly low interest rates, though there could be a period of initial optimism. Sterling is another weak currency, but if one is condemned to a leaky lifeboat, it is probably better to be in a little one than struggling for the tiller with other quarrelsome passengers in a big one. Whatever else the euro may be, it certainly will not be as good as gold.

Right out

ANDREW ROBERTS, right-wing historian, journalist and arch Euro-sceptic, is to be expelled from his local Conservative association for making favourable noises about the Referendum Party. Roberts has been a leading member of Kensington and Chelsea CA, the QEII of associations, for ten years.

"Anyone who knows me knows I am as Tory as Burke," a flabbergasted Roberts says from Bournemouth where he has been positioning himself near the conference hall clapometer to applaud Euro-sceptic comments or references to the British Empire. "But now I have been told that the most senior source at Conservative Central Office wants me expelled." The most senior source, one presumes, is none other than Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman.

Roberts's crime was to write in *The Sunday Times* that when it came to choosing between Sir Nicholas Scott, the sitting MP and ardent Europhile, and Robin Birley, an old friend of Roberts and Referendum Party candidate in Kensington and Chelsea, he thought Birley the better Tory. His preference for Birley, insists Roberts, does not mean that he would endorse the Referendum Party across the board. His protests may fall on deaf ears. Burke was a Whig.

● *In Bournemouth defection stories are getting out of hand, the latest being that the Tories will unveil a defector from Labour before the week is out. The MP in question is said to be close to Blair and according to senior Tories decided to defect without any wooing. Over on the Tories' other wing, meanwhile, there is talk of an imminent defection to the Referendum Party by one who is socially close to Lord McAlpine and intends to step down at the election.*



"Hello, is that Max Clifford?"

DIARY

Shirt story

THE PROSPECT of sitting at the dinner table in full view of Roy Hattersley's naked torso is an unedifying one. Such a fate befell guests at a dinner at the British Embassy in Washington, as Hattersley himself shamelessly recalls in a new set of his memoirs which he is to read on Radio 4 next week.

"During dinner there had been a fierce argument between Henry Kissinger and the French Ambassador about swimming pools," the new champion of old Labour says. "The Ambassador had emphasised one of his points by wagging his fork in Henry's direction and covered the front of my shirt with kidney turbigo. When Nancy Kissinger saw what had happened she began to mop my chest with a damp napkin. My shirt turned transparent — revealing several spots, a few wisps of ginger hair and both nipples." Sounds very unpalatable.

Mode in Japan

FOLLOWING his appearance as the Royal Opera House's hard man in the television series *The House* last year, Keith Cooper's career goes from strength to strength. The strapping director of corporate affairs, who started receiving women's underwear through the post after his TV appearance, has been signed up by the Japanese label Yamomoto to model sunglasses and jackets. "The Japanese think I am absolutely the man on the street," he says.

Maid to fit

POLITICAL CORRECTNESS has invaded Sherwood Forest. A Warner Brothers televison series, *The New Adventures of Robin Hood*, has done away with Maid Marion. Robin's paramour, to be played by Anna Galvin, is to be known simply as Marion.

"There is no more Maid in Marion," the producers say. "She is Robin's equal in every way. She is a ferocious fighter and will match any man with her sword, her whip, and her wit." Adding insult to injury, it is being shot in Lithuania.



Cooper: cool customer

Strike up

LAST night's party to celebrate the 10th birthday of *The Phantom of the Opera* looked certain to go with a swing. But only after last minute negotiations to avert industrial action. The orchestra complained that while every member of the cast, past and present, had been invited to join Andrew Lloyd Webber and producer Cameron Mackintosh at the Park Lane Hotel, some musicians, who had been scraping away in the pit for years, were not. The gala performance had been brought forward to 7pm but the musicians threatened to work to rule and turn up as usual at 7.45. Suddenly they found they were invited after all.

Watery tale

THE influence of Sarah Miles, actress and urine-drinker, seems to have infiltrated the fashion world. Tyra Banks, the leggy American



Tyra: bizarre

model, has been wittering on about how she deliberately memorises bizarre facts with which to astound and amaze her friends. "I'll learn something and bring it out at the weirdest moment ... like did you know that it is better to drink your own urine rather than seawater?" she burbles.

P·H·S

هكذا من الأصل

IMPERMANENT POLICY

Clarke and Heseltine must soon face the inevitable

The Prime Minister and his Foreign Secretary have devised a line on the single currency that is guiding them through a turbulent week in Bournemouth. It is a line that can probably hold for the next few months as well. But they are deluding themselves if they believe that it can last until the general election and beyond.

The "wait and see" policy has merits beyond those outlined by John Major and Malcolm Rifkind yesterday. As well as giving Britain's voice greater weight at the European meetings that determine the machinery of the single currency, it also increases the prospect of this country forming alliances with others to delay or derail EMU. This is an advantage at which British politicians can only hint: if they admitted it outright, they would sabotage their own plans.

Mr Major's comments yesterday about the importance, even to the "out" countries, of EMU being a success lead naturally to the idea that Britain should play an active part in preventing a single currency from happening if it looks as if the convergence criteria are being fudged. Not so long ago, the British position was that, if other member states wanted to go ahead, this country should not obstruct them.

But, useful as this equivocal policy may have proved at the negotiating tables of Brussels, it can be no more than an interim measure. And it is not true to suggest, as both the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary did yesterday, that if Britain ruled out joining the first wave of a single currency, it would have to leave the table. This country might have less influence on certain decisions about how the currency is run. But it would have just as much right to be heard on the big issues, since the "outs" will be seriously affected by the single currency too.

By next spring, the national interest in ruling out membership will be marginal: all the big decisions will have been taken. But the national interest in making a decision will be huge. The most important issue facing voters at the next general election will be whether or not Britain should make this epic move of uniting itself economically to other countries. It is simply incredible that either party should by then profess itself to be agnostic, particularly since the new government will have to bring in legislation within months of winning office if it wants to join the first wave.

It is also impossible to conceive of a Conservative government (and probably even a Labour one) taking that momentous step. As this week in Bournemouth has shown, the vast majority of the party is viscerally opposed to the single currency. So are most Tory MPs; and their views are likely to be hardened by the new intake. Few in the present Cabinet would enthusiastically sign up to EMU.

Meanwhile, as poll after poll has shown, the country is overwhelmingly hostile to a single currency. In every other nation, bar one, that wants to join, voters are behind the project. They are willing, if a little reluctantly, to make sacrifices in pursuit of what they perceive to be a greater good. In Italy, they have even agreed to pay a special tax to meet the Maastricht criteria. Germany is the exception, but the sheer determination of Chancellor Kohl, and voters' desire for political union, may outweigh their sensibilities about giving up the mark.

It is hard to see any British Prime Minister being able to turn opinion in this country round in time to win a referendum and join in 1999. These are the realities that both Mr Major and Mr Blair must face. Most important, it is the reality that Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine must face. These two men are the obstacles to Mr Major setting out a sensible position for a fifth term. Whatever their personal wishes, they must be made to realise that Britain is simply not going to join EMU in 1999. They cannot be allowed to hold their party, its government and the national interest hostage.

RUSSIAN HEIR PRESUMPTIVE

Lebed has a rough and tangled maze to his goal

Aleksandr Lebed has returned from Nato to a chorus of recriminations in Moscow. Politicians, newspaper editorials and television commentators remarked acidly that he had failed to make clear Russia's opposition to Nato enlargement, that he preferred to impress his hosts than defend his country's interests and that he was seduced by the glitter and sparkle of his first visit to the West. The fact that the former general made a good impression in Brussels has only given an edge to such carpings. The battle for Mr Yeltsin's succession has now begun in earnest. And the name of the game in Moscow is: get Lebed.

The charismatic secretary of Mr Yeltsin's Security Council is an outsider, a man who stormed his way to power by coming third in the presidential election in June. He has little understanding of politics, and little time for the niceties of democracy. With bluff military impatience, he believes there are urgent jobs to be done and these are being held up by the Byzantine intrigue that marks the shifting alliances in the Kremlin. Unlike the two other main contenders for Mr Yeltsin's job, Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, and Yuri Luzhkov, the powerful Mayor of Moscow, Mr Lebed has no inhibitions about declaring his hand. He has called on the President to step down. He has seized every chance to air his views. He has verged on rank disloyalty to the President and Government he serves.

Moscow's apparatchiks have closed ranks against him, dismissing his achievement in negotiating a Chechen ceasefire as a surrender. Their accusations are fuelled partly by jealousy — he succeeded where the corrupt and incompetent former Defence Minister failed — and in part by reluctance to admit that Russia has been worsted. But as Mr Lebed writes on the opposite page today, Russians soldiers and mothers have saluted him while the political establishment has accused him of virtual betrayal. He asks what other solution the politicians propose, and with a clear undertone of menace promises to reveal the names of all those responsible for the slaughter in the first place.

His decision to put his case in *The Times* is a clear appeal for world backing as a way of outflanking those who would sabotage the Chechen deal in order to derail his ambitions. The West, however, will be as cautious of endorsing him as his Moscow rivals. For Mr Lebed is still an unknown quantity. Beyond the two vital issues where he can exploit his experience to embarrass the Government — the Chechen war and military reform — he has given little indication of his wider programme or philosophy. He is indiscriminate in his choice of allies and ambiguous even on such issues as Nato enlargement. He wants a snap election, before the glow of the Chechen deal fades. The Kremlin, under the sure hand of Anatoli Chubais, is playing a longer game, ready to employ the same campaign tactics for Mr Chernomyrdin that worked so successfully for Mr Yeltsin. As an outsider, Mr Lebed presents a challenge to entrenched interests that have already attempted to link him to corruption scandals. The gravel-voiced general may find the political terrain as rough as the military campaigns in Moldova and Chechnya.

LIVE POETS' SOCIETY

The royal road into English is by other men's verse

Today is National Poetry Day. Over Britain poetry is tuning up. Supermarkets offer service with a spondee, barmaids pull an anapaest with their pints. Commuters curse traffic-jams in couplets and businessmen bargain in blank verse. The nation is a-swill with the spontaneous overflow of powerful feeling — or insipid sentiment.

For those already initiated in the rhymer's art, the encouragement of amateur poetasters is simply a swing from bad to verse. Dionysian dabblers should not be indulged, some say. But the distinction between high and low culture has ever been blurred. Was it not rumoured in the sacred groves that Bob Dylan might be the recipient of a Nobel Prize this year? The context of poetry has never been a purely academic one.

Poetry is an integral part of our modern environment, from the lyrics of pop songs to a Christmas card's couplets, from the rhythms of rap to the jingles of a television advertisement. It is estimated that more than half the adults in Britain have attempted to pen poetry at some point in their lives. Their efforts should be applauded, not despised. Poetry, as Robert Frost once observed, is a way of taking life by the throat. Those who write it directly confront their most solemn ideas and most heartfelt emotions. In reading it many find contentment and solace, discovering an expression of shared ideas. In a world of increasing alienation, thronged with ever more therapists, this is something to be encouraged, not shunned.

This year, National Poetry Day focuses particularly on the young. Poetry packs have been sent out to every school in the country in an attempt to encourage all schoolchildren to write, learn or perform a poem. To do this is to put them in touch with one of our most important national exports — the English language.

Poetry has famously been described as "the best words in the best order". To write it is to practise an elegance and a precision of expression, lamentably lacking in the modern world. To learn it is to carry in one's head one of our richest cultural resources. A poem learnt is a poem retained — its rhythms and cadences can inform and enrich one's own language throughout life. And in this soundbitten age, when time is one of our most valuable commodities, to read a poem is to enjoy a fullness of expression in one of its briefest and most concentrated forms.

In sponsorship of this year's National Poetry Day, the Forward Poetry Trust has joined forces with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). Keats's poetry of the earth is, indeed, not yet dead. The WWF considers that the best way of developing environmental concern in children is to encourage them to explore the issue through verse. Our cultural environment is as integral to our well-being as our physical surroundings.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Wakeham warns on press excess

From Lord Wakeham, Chairman of the Press Complaints Commission

Sir, The events of the last few days (reports, October 8, 9) have thrown into sharp focus a matter that has been worrying me for some time. Although these events concern primarily members and former members of the Royal Family, the key issues they raise — invasion of privacy and the use of public-interest defence by newspapers — have wider ramifications.

The effectiveness of self-regulation depends on two factors: first, public credibility; second, sound editorial judgment about how any story relates to the letter and to the spirit of the industry's own Code of Practice. That effectiveness — which has been growing in stature — is now in danger of being undermined because a stream of injudicious stories centring on the private lives of public individuals, backed up only by the flimsiest of public-interest defences, has bewildered a public which rightly asks why the Press Complaints Commission does not act to stop it.

The commission is an organisation which adjudicates on complaints only after thorough investigation. But first there has to be a complaint. Only then can the process begin. In a number of cases recently the people involved have chosen not to complain. Of particular concern in recent events must, of course, be the children of those involved: when a story breaks they are the first to suffer. I can understand — as could any parent — why, in these circumstances, those individuals are reluctant to complain and perhaps prolong the suffering through the investigation.

But this is unfortunate because it might lead some newspapers to believe that, simply because one of those involved in a story fails to complain, they have *carte blanche* to invade their privacy without any defence of public interest.

There are many issues arising from this — and they are not just for the press, but for public figures as well. They, too, should understand that we will always back accurate reporting whilst a genuine matter of public interest is at stake. And as I have said before, those who seek the limelight of publicity should always be prepared when its glare is returned, sometimes harshly.

In the light of my concerns, I believe we need now to examine all these issues carefully but urgently to see what lessons can be learned. In the meantime newspapers should beware that unjustified reporting of the private lives of public individuals will cast into doubt the system of self-regulation which has, in my view, achieved notable successes over the past few years. They should remember, too, that the PCC has powers to raise its own complaints when it needs to — and will not hesitate to use them.

Nobody would benefit from statutory controls — neither public, whose complaints we deal with (free of charge) in their hundreds every month, nor industry, which would find itself dragged into a perpetual quagmire of litigation.

I therefore trust all those who have an interest in these issues will co-operate with me and with the commission as we chart the way forward in strengthening self-regulation in this most difficult — but critical — of areas. I have always been the first to praise the industry which has made tremendous strides in the last few years in raising standards. I know they will rise to this new challenge.

Yours faithfully,
WAKEHAM, Chairman,
Press Complaints Commission,
1 Salisbury Square, EC4.
October 9.

Battle of Towton

From Mr Geoffrey Richardson

Sir, I was most interested to read today of the discovery near Tadcaster of a mass grave from the Wars of the Roses. However, the Battle of Towton, which was fought on Palm Sunday of 1461, ended in complete victory for the Yorkist army, led by Edward IV, not "the Lancastrian forces", as stated. In addition, "the six-hour battle" described actually lasted for ten hours, with the pursuit of the defeated Lancastrians afterwards continuing through much of the night.

The location of the skeletons indicates that they are of fleeing survivors from the battle who were caught en route to the succour offered by the walls of York. The same sad fate befell many more of the Red Rose army along the Tadcaster road, which, according to contemporary reports, was "lined with the corpses of the slain".

Sincerely,
G. RICHARDSON (Author,
The Hollow Crowns, a history of the battles of the Wars of the Roses),
Rylands, Moorland Crescent,
Baildon, Shipley, West Yorkshire.
October 9.

Dim view

From Mr Alastair Cuthbertson

Sir, Recent touring holiday experience leads me to suspect a conspiracy among hoteliers to discourage clients from reading in bed. Why such inadequate bedside lighting?

Yours faithfully,
ALASTAIR CUTHBERTSON,
Applecross, Shootersway Lane,
Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire.

Jack Straw's proposals for tackling drug-related crime

From Ms Jo Gardiner

Sir, The Labour Party's announcement of their proposal to conduct drug tests on some young criminals (report and leading article, October 4) sounds like a tough measure for a tough problem.

However, work done by the Industrial Society with young offenders prior to their release shows that they would like to see action taken earlier on the causes of crime.

These young men, many of them experienced criminals by the age of 17 and 18, almost without exception suggest one solution: the way to reduce crime is to compensate for the lack of stable families and communities by providing children, from the age of 10, with challenging opportunities and safe environments where they can develop skills and positive attitudes. If young people don't turn to drugs they are far less likely to turn to crime.

Policymakers would do well to involve those with recent and direct experience when developing proposals to tackle crime.

Yours faithfully,
JO GARDINER
(Campaign Manager),
The Industrial Society,
48 Bryanston Square, W1.
October 4.

From Mr Danny Kushlick

Sir, Your leading article, "Labour's test", criticises Jack Straw's plans for drug offenders for not addressing the supply side of the drugs market.

I have worked for a number of years with drug-using offenders on court orders and in prison. My experience is that those who want to make significant changes in their lives and to stop offending do so. Those who do not, continue to offend. Both groups do this regardless of the threat of imprisonment.

The significant factor in determining a desire to change is the recognition that there is something worth changing for — that there is some hope. Change cannot be enforced by the criminal justice system, it comes from within. Most problematic drug use is related to unemployment, poverty and despair.

My conclusion is that the only way to produce significant change for users and non-users is to legalise all drugs. Problematic users offend in order to pay the high price of illicit drugs. The high price of drugs is determined by a demand-led market with a limited supply set by organised crime. Crime associated with the tobacco market is negligible even though most users are dependent addicts.

Politicians who talk about law and order should recognise that prohibition creates huge opportunities for organised crime. If they really want to reduce crime they should legalise and regulate the drugs market at the earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely,
DANNY KUSHLICK
(Co-ordinator),
Transform
(The campaign to transform drug policy and legislation),
Box 59, 82 Colston Street, Bristol BS1.
October 4.

From the Chief Executive of the Standing Conference on Drug Abuse

Sir, Your leading article says Jack Straw's proposals to test and treat criminals likely to be drug abusers have merit, but also rightly says that practical solutions to tackle drug misuse have proved elusive.

What really bedevils such work at national and local level is the lack of investment in new resources, or the lack of will to redirect existing resources from the criminal justice system to treatment programmes. This, as you say, would cut crime.

There is a way forward though. Only last week Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary, in a report on local police drug strategies, raised the possibility of redirecting the proceeds of seized assets into under-resourced treatment and rehabilitation services. The Home Office Police Research Group and the National Audit Office have also suggested that more could and should be done to maximise asset seizures.

What would be heartening would be to hear a commitment from the Treasury teams of all political parties that more will be done to confiscate assets and put the proceeds into prevention and treatment programmes. That would be real progress.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER HOWARD,
Chief Executive,
Standing Conference on Drug Abuse,
32-36 Loman Street, SE1.
October 7.

From the Chair of the Penal Affairs Consortium

Sir, While supporting the Shadow Home Secretary's advocacy of court-ordered treatment for drug-addicted offenders, your leading article criticises Labour's opposition to Michael Howard's proposals "to introduce minimum sentences for professional drug dealers".

However, the Home Secretary's proposed seven-year minimum sentences for repeat drug dealers would apply not only to professional suppliers but also to addicts selling small amounts to friends to finance their own drug habit. Many of them are exactly the sort of offender for whom court-ordered drug treatment can succeed; yet minimum sentences would prohibit courts from using this humane and cost-effective option.

Minimum prison terms could also damage intelligence-gathering into drug-trafficking operations. Small-scale user-dealers would have less incentive to co-operate in helping the police to build a case against major traffickers if a seven-year minimum sentence prevented courts from reflecting this co-operation in a reduced sentence.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL CAVADINO, Chair,
Penal Affairs Consortium,
169 Clapham Road, SW9.
October 4.

Defining sleaze in modern politics

From Mr David Butler

Sir, There are occasions when the House of Commons can do most for its own authority by abjuring its powers. The key step in curing the Eatanswill elections of the 19th century was the 1870 Act which transferred jurisdiction over controverted elections from a select committee to the High Court.

The House thereby escaped the widespread suspicion of collusive fixing and the courts speedily established rules and standards about corrupt electioneering which became generally accepted. Could not the House consider this example in dealing with its current ethical problems (letters, October 3, 4, 5, 7, 8)?

Yours,
DAVID BUTLER,
Nuffield College, Oxford.
October 8.

From Mr R. H. Keys

Sir, Mr G. E. Taylor (letter, October 7) describes Ian Greer Associates disparagingly as "serving whoever pays them the most".

A more accurate and less inflammatory analogy would be with lawyers. They too will fight for any client who pays them. They too "rarely pretend to support . . . clients out of conviction". That is their value. At their best they do well a job that they are paid to do. Few of us believe that there is anything discreditable about this.

The position of parliamentary lobbyists is exactly the same and there is no reason why Lady Turner should feel ashamed of her connection with them.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT KEYS,
11 Finchley Avenue,
Chelmsford, Essex.

From Mr Ian McGaw

Sir, I had the privilege to be the Conservative candidate at St Helens in the 1970 general election. When the election was announced I — and I expect every other candidate — received a letter from a well known shoemaker offering a pair of their shoes to help us in the miles that we were going to cover during the campaign.

My agent advised that I could not accept the offer as it might prejudice my future independence!

Yours faithfully,
IAN McGAW,
6 Laud's Close,
Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.
October 9.

'Easier' A levels

From Captain C. P. R. Belton, RN

Sir, Whether A levels are more or less difficult (report, October 4) I am well past knowing or caring: but as my younger son's two-week half-term approaches I was minded to do a simple sum.

This term, the first of his two-year A-level course, is 107 days long. Since there is no school on Saturday mornings and half-term lasts 10 days, he will do only 67 days (62.6 per cent) in school.

So, if A levels are getting easier, maybe it is simply a reflection of the amount of time schools are prepared to allocate to their core business of teaching the young.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,
CHRISTOPHER BELTON,
45 Heathfield Green,
Midhurst, West Sussex.
October 6.

From Mr Jonathan Carey

Sir, As a former pupil of one of the consistently top schools, I feel a sense of pride each year when my old school again achieves one of the leading positions in the A-level tables.

However, as parents, my wife and I find these tables totally irrelevant. What we are interested in is how schools prepare their pupils for later life.

It is no good being top of the tables, if five years later the pupils responsible are addicted to drugs, burnt out or have under-achieved at university.

What to us would be meaningful and helpful would be tables (by school) showing what former pupils were doing ten years after leaving, giving an insight into their employment and social status.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN CAREY,
Kites, Frith End,
Bordon, Hampshire.
October 5.

Gospel truth

From Mr A. Bannister

Sir, Barbara Thiering, it seems, asserts that Jesus was not the Son of God but merely an "extraordinary leader of men" ("The gospel according to Barbara", October 4). She then asks us to believe that he was flogged, nailed to a cross, had a spear stuck in his side, convinced a squadron of Roman soldiers that he was dead; then he miraculously "revived" in the tomb to father a family and die at the ripe old age of 64. Not bad for a man who was "not a miracle-worker".

Contrasting Dr Thiering's theories with the more conventional gospel accounts . . . well, I know which I find easier to believe.

Yours faithfully,
ANDY BANNISTER,
28 Fairfield Street, SW18.

All in the family

From Canon Simon Bloxam-Rose

Sir, Far from being a politically correct term favoured by new Labour as Mr John Payne suggests (letter, October 8), the expression "wife's mother" has an excellent pedigree.

The translators of the Authorised Version of the Bible in 1611 (following Tyndale) used it to describe the mother-in-law of St Peter (Mark i, 30).

I remain etc,
SIMON BLOXAM-ROSE
(Senior Chaplain, Millfield School),
Orchard Leigh,
Butleigh Road, Street, Somerset.
October 8.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Eustace Roskill

From Mr Muir Hunter, QC

Sir, Your splendid obituary of Eustace Roskill (October 8) pays tribute to his kindness to the Bar. May I give an example?

Just after starting a long case before him I was struck down with a septic throat. On my clerk informing him that I should be a little late for court, he telephoned me in bed, ordering me not to return until I was better. "You have a perfectly adequate junior to read the paper and the books meanwhile," he said. "I once came back to court before I had recovered, and it did me much harm." We are indeed fortunate to have such judges.

Your obedient servant,
MUIR HUNTER,
3/4 South Square, Gray's Inn, WC1.
October 8.

Bones of contention

From Dr B. S. Smith

Sir, It is sad to see on your front page today (later editions), and repeated in Sport, a reference to a footballer with a broken right leg and a fracture in his left leg.

There is, of course, no difference between a broken bone and a fractured bone. Fracture is the preferred term medically and implies no qualitative or quantative information other than that the bone is broken.

Yours faithfully,
B. S. SMITH
(Consultant physician),
Sandwell Healthcare, Lyndon,
West Bromwich, West Midlands.
October 7.

Testing times

From Dr K. T. H. Farrer

Sir, In recalling famous innings at Headingley ("Yorkshire to move home", Sport, October 8), would it be rude to remind Englishmen that, *pace* Botham, Willis and the rest, this is also the ground on which D. G. Bradman, on July 11, 1930, made 105 before lunch, added 115 between lunch and tea, and a further 89 before close of play?

Yours sincerely,
K. T. H. FARRER,
Glen Ebor, 24 Rosemoor Grove,
Chandler's Ford, Hampshire.

Conserving antiquity

From Dr Andrew Bamji

Sir, Historic archaeological sites have always suffered at the hands of careless tourists (letters, October 4).

The great gateway to Persepolis is defaced by extensive graffiti. One stone bears the inscription, within a lozenge, "Stanley, New York Herald, 1870".

A little distance from this a later vandal has written "Col. Malcolm Meade, HM Consul General, 1898", beneath which a less precise hand has added "& Mrs Meade".

With such examples, what hope can there be for Pompeii?

Yours dispiritedly,
ANDREW BAMJI,
58 Goddington Lane,
Orpington, Kent
October 4.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

October 9: His Excellency Mr Sergiu Celac and Mrs Celac were received in farewell audience by The Queen and took leave upon His Excellency relinquishing his appointment as Ambassador from Romania to the Court of St James's.

His Excellency Mr Kjell Colding was received in audience by Her Majesty and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador from the Kingdom of Norway to the Court of St James's.

Sir John Coles (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present.

The Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island and Mrs Clements were received by The Queen.

Dame Roma Mitchell was received by Her Majesty upon relinquishing her appointment as Governor of South Australia.

Princess Sayako of Japan was invited to Tea with The Queen.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh this evening attended a Reception at the British Academy of Film and Television Arts, Piccadilly, London W1, to mark the Academy's Fiftieth Anniversary and were received by Sir David Putnam (Vice-President) and Mr Edward Mirzoeff (Chairman).

Sir William Brown was received by The Duke of Edinburgh at the City Chambers, Glasgow, when His Royal Highness, on behalf of The Queen, conferred upon him the honour of Knighthood and invested him with the Insignia of a Knight Bachelor.

The Duke of Edinburgh this morning presented the John Logie Baird Awards for Innovation at Barony Hall, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, and was received by Councillor Mrs Susan Baird (Vice Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Glasgow).

His Royal Highness this afternoon opened the Ivy Wu Gallery at the Royal Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Edinburgh (Mr Eric Milligan, the Rt Hon the Lord Provost).

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

October 9: The Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, Royal Corps of Signals and Royal Logistic Corps, this morning departed Banja Luka and visited a number of units in Dobrinja Ranges, Krupa, Previja, Sipovo and Vitorog.

Her Royal Highness this afternoon flew to Split, Croatia, to visit more units of her Corps.

The Princess Royal this evening arrived at Royal Air Force Lyneham from Croatia.

The Countess of Lichfield and Lieutenant Colonel Peter Gibbs were in attendance.

ST JAMES'S PALACE

October 9: The Prince of Wales this afternoon attended the Memorial Service in Dunblane Cathedral for the children and teacher who were killed at Dunblane Primary School and afterwards met the bereaved families and friends.

His Royal Highness was received by Captain William Forbes (Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Stirling and Falkirk).

KENSINGTON PALACE

October 9: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon this afternoon visited Cheshire and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Cheshire (Mr William Bromley Davenport).

Her Royal Highness visited AVRO International Aerospace at Woodford.

The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon subsequently opened The Grange Junior School, Hartford, Northwich.

The Duke of York has been pleased to appoint Commander Charlotte Elizabeth Manley, Royal Navy, as Comptroller and Assistant Private Secretary to His Royal Highness in succession to Mrs Jonathan Mathias.

The Duke of York has been pleased to appoint Major Timothy Edward Douglas Allan, Royal Tank Regiment, to be an Equerry to His Royal Highness. Major Allan succeeds Captain David Thompson, who relinquishes his appointment on completion of his tour of duty.

Royal engagements

The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, will unveil a memorial in Westminster Abbey at noon to commemorate the innocent victims of our century.

The Duke of Edinburgh, as President and Honorary Life Fellow, Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce, will present the 1996 Albert Medal and attend a dinner at 8 John Adam Street, WC2, at 7.15.

The Princess Royal, President, Riding for the Disabled Association, will attend a council meeting at Saddlers' Hall, at 10.55.

Princess Margaret will preside at the annual council meeting of the NSPCC, Barbican Centre, at 11.40.

The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, National Asthma Campaign, will attend the 1996 Asthma Gift Fair at the Hurlingham Club, at 10.30; and, as Patron, National Missing Persons Helpline, attend a service of thanksgiving and hope, St Bride's, Fleet Street, at 5.30. Afterwards she will attend a reception in St Bride's Institute.

Princess Alexandra will open phase II of Woking Community Hospital, Heathside Road, Woking, at 3.00.

Lord Saatchi

The life barony conferred upon Mr Maurice Saatchi has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baron Saatchi, of Staplefield, in the County of West Sussex.

Memorial appeal

A reception was held on Monday at The Oval, Kennington, to launch The Peter May Memorial Appeal for The London Playing Fields Society.

Reception

Baroness Trumpington

Baroness Trumpington was the host at a reception held yesterday at the House of Lords to mark the inauguration of Mrs Sheila Brain as President of the YWCA.

Dinners

Fuellers' Company

Mr Edward Wilkinson was installed yesterday as Master of the Fuellers' Company. Mr Colin MacLeod as Senior Warden, and Mr D.R.T. Waring as Junior Warden. Later, General Sir Edward Jones, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, was the principal guest and speaker at the dinner held at Armourers' Hall. The Master presided and the Senior Warden also spoke.

Company of World Traders

Mr Jim G. Davis was installed yesterday as Master of the Company of World Traders. Mr David Watt as Senior Warden and Mr Peter Wildblood as Junior Warden. Later, the Master presided at a dinner held at Painters' Hall. The Danish Ambassador, Mr Alderman Roger Cork, Lord Mayor-elect, and Mr Alderman and Sheriff Clive Martin were among the guests.

Middlesex CCC

Dr Geoffrey Buchler was the host and a speaker at a dinner held last night at Lord's as part of Mr Mike Gatting's testimonial year for Middlesex County Cricket Club. Councillor Alexander Nicoll, Mr Mike Selvey, Mr Peter Taylor, Mr Ken Clark and Mr Simon Bond also spoke. Mr Angus Fraser, Mr Mark Ramprakash, Mr Michael Wynne-Parker and Dr J.F. Watt were among the guests.

Birthdays today

Sir John Cassels, former director-general, NEDO, 68; Mr Winston S. Churchill, MP, 56; Mr Charles Dance, actor, 50; Miss Laura Davies, golfer, 33; Mr Ted Edgar, showjumper, 61; the Right Rev A.J.M. Haggart, former Bishop of Edinburgh, 81; Sir Peter Kemp, civil servant, 62; Lord Kincraig, 78; Professor J.B. Large, Professor of Applied Acoustics, Southampton University, 66; Mr Daniel Massey, actor, 63; Professor Howard Newby, Vice-Chancellor, Southampton University, 49; Mr Nicholas Parsons, broadcaster, 68; Mr Harold Pinter, playwright, 66; Dr Brian Smith, Vice-Chancellor, University of Wales College of Cardiff, 63; the Earl of Stockton, 53; Mr Chris Tarrant, broadcaster, 50; Mr Frank H. Taylor, former MP, 89; Mr Richard Thornton, Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, 74; Mr Midge Ure, rock singer, 43; Mr Ben Vereen, actor, 50; Mr Willard White, singer and actor, 50.

Lord Amery of Lustleigh

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life and work of Lord Amery of Lustleigh (Julian Amery) will take place in St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey, at noon on Tuesday, December 3. All are welcome, and those wishing to attend are requested to apply for tickets to: The Rector's Secretary, Room 3, 1 Little Cloister, Westminster Abbey, SW1P 3PL, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope. Tickets will be posted from November 22.

Plumbers' Company

Mr Jack Jeffery, Master of the Plumbers' Company, has presented the company's 1996 annual award to LMEA (leading marine engineering artificer) A.R. Lawrence, the best trainee rating qualifying in metalwork, who was subsequently invested as an honorary freeman of the company.

Gardeners' Company

The Rev Noel Shepherd preached the sermon at the annual harvest thanksgiving service of the Gardeners' Company held yesterday at All Hallows-by-the-Tower. Afterwards a reception and supper were held at Trinity House.

Institute of Biology

The following have been elected as Fellows and may use the designatory letters CBiol FIBiol:

Dr Anthony Allen, Dr Ibrahim Banat, Dr Anthony Markham, Professor Sir Kenneth Murray, Professor Noreen Murray, Professor Hubert Newman, Mr David Philcox, Mr Peter Raines, Professor Christopher Thurston.

We apologise for any inconvenience to Dr David Morgan, CBiol, FIBiol, for incorrectly showing his title in June.

Call 0171 581 8333 for information on membership.

United Medical and Dental Schools

On October 9, 1996, the United Medical and Dental Schools of Guy's and St Thomas's Hospitals awarded Honorary Fellowships to:

Mr Donald Bompas, CMG, MA; Professor Walter Holland, CBE, MD, FRCP, FRCPE, FRCGP, FRCPath, FFPHM; Mr Peter Lumsden, CBE, MA, FCA; Dr Richard Ross, MD; Professor Jack Tulley, OBE, PhD, BDS, FDSRCS, DOrth; Mr Victor Warren, MA.

The ceremony was held in Southwark Cathedral and Dr Malcolm Godfrey, CBE, Chairman of the UMDS Council of Governors, presided. A reception was held in the Glaziers' Hall followed by a dinner in the Governors' Hall at St Thomas' Hospital.



One of four original pen and ink sketches by Ernest Howard Shepard (1879-1976), the artist and cartoonist, for A A Milne's 1926 children's classic *Winnie-the-Pooh* which are estimated to fetch up to £51,000 at auction at Christie's, South Kensington, on December 6. The drawings, from a private collection, illustrate the chapter in which Pooh and Piglet go hunting and almost catch a Woozle

Latest wills

Stella Hermione **Jones**, of St Albans, Hertfordshire, left estate valued at £4,216,465 net.
She left £200 each to: Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Albans, National Trust, Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Society, Church of England Children's Society, Hertfordshire Society, Friends of the Elderly and Gentlefolk's Help, and the British Diabetic Association.

Stanley **Randall**, of Bournemouth, Dorset, left estate valued at £1,017,041 net.
He left one sixth of his residuary estate each to: RNLI, Guide Dogs for the Blind Association and RNIB.

William Pemberton **Molineux**, of Fleggburgh, Norfolk, left estate valued at £1,514,156 net.

Kenneth Haydn **Ficklin**, chartered accountant, of Cyncoed, Cardiff, left estate valued at £1,065,776 net.
He left £20,000 to Tenovus Cancer Research, Cardiff.

George Albert **Bone**, of Ilkley, West Yorkshire, left estate valued at £811,606 net.
He left £10,000 to Shipley Rotary Club for medical research and £1,000 to the RSPCA.

Isabel Meadowcroft **Carefull**, of Liverpool 18, left estate valued at £778,958 net.
She left £1,000 each to Barnardo's, Cancer Research Campaign, the RNLI, the NSPCC, Leukaemia Research Fund and Age Concern.

Madeline Poyser, of Burton Joyce, Nottinghamshire, left estate valued at £735,219 net.

Alan Stuart **Green**, retired nurseryman, of Shenstone, Lichfield, left estate valued at £635,545 net.

Dorothy May **Frears**, of Woodhouse Eaves, Leicestershire, left estate valued at £840,694 net.
She left £5,000 to the Abbeyfield (Quorn) Society, Leicester.

Norman William **Potts**, of Eastbourne, East Sussex, left estate valued at £689,617 net.
He left £20,000 to the Friends of Kings College Hospital and to the Friends of the Eastbourne Hospitals; £5,000 to St Wilfrid's Hospice Eastbourne; £1,000 to the Regimental Association of the Green Howards Regiment; £250 to Our Lady of Ransom Church, Eastbourne.

Godfrey Charles **Smith**, company director, of Kidlington, Oxfordshire, left estate valued at £807,187 net.

Henry Ronald **Spice**, of Noke, Oxfordshire, left estate valued at £623,134 net.
He left £1,000 to St Giles, Noke.

Dorrice Eunice Warwick **Willmer**, of Shalstone, Buckingham, left estate valued at £560,339 net.
She left £50,000 to the RNLI and £10,000 to the Donkey Sanctuary, Sidmouth.

Mary Wheatley **Ridsdale**, of Salcombe, Devon, left estate valued at £559,621 net.
She left £1,000 each to Cancer Research Campaign and National Trust.

Bernard Charles **Bentley**, solicitor, of Colchester, Essex, left estate valued at £727,760 net.
He left £1,000 to each of the past and present members of the staff of Goody Bentley and Son.

Marjorie Dawn **Eren**, of Eaton, Norwich, left estate valued at £615,694 net.
She left residuary estate to be divided between Oxfam, the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, the RSPCA, British Red Cross Society and the Leukaemia Research Fund.

Etta Sylvia **Naish**, of London SW1, left estate valued at £868,520 net.
She left £50,000 to the University of London Institute of Germanic Studies for providing grants for graduates to assist visits of British graduates to German speaking countries and the NSPCC; and £2,000 to St Peter's Church, Eaton Square, London.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Jacobus Arminius, theologian, Oudewater, The Netherlands, 1560; (Jean) Antoine Watteau, painter, Valenciennes, France, 1684; Henry Cavendish, chemist and physicist, Nice, 1731; Benjamin West, President, Royal Academy 1792-1820, Springfield, Pennsylvania, 1738; John Abercrombie, physician, Aberdeen, 1780; Hugh Miller, geologist, Cromarty, 1802; Giuseppe Verdi, composer, Parma, Italy, 1813; Sir John Simon, pathologist and sanitary reformer, London, 1816; Paul Kruger, President of the South African Republic 1883-1902, Colesberg, Cape Colony, 1825; Rufus Isaacs, 1st Marquess of Reading, Lord Chief Justice 1913-21, Viceroy of India 1921-26, London, 1860; Fridtjof Nansen, Arctic explorer, statesman, Nobel Peace laureate 1922, Store-Frøen, Norway, 1861; Alberto Giacometti, painter and sculptor, Stampa, Switzerland, 1901.

DEATHS: Fra Filippo Lippi, painter, Spoleto, Italy, 1469; Henry Brooke, novelist, Dublin, 1783; Francois Marie Charles Fourier, socialist writer, Paris, 1837; Édouard Daladier, Prime Minister of France 1933-34 and 1938-40, Paris, 1970; Sir Ralph Richardson, actor, London, 1983; Yul Brynner, actor, New York, 1985.

Mrs Emmeline Pankhurst, British suffragette, formed the Women's Social and Political Union in Manchester to fight for female emancipation, 1903.

German bomb destroyed the high altar of St Paul's Cathedral, 1940.

The Fiji Islands were proclaimed independent, 1970.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R.J. Ashton
and Miss S. Yeomans
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Dr and Mrs John Ashton, of Mereworth, Kent, and Sarah, younger daughter of Mr Michael Yeomans, of Singapore, and Mrs Kim Yeomans, of Tadworth, Surrey.

Mr S.R. Belton
and Miss Z.C.S. Elgood
The engagement is announced between Steven, son of Mr and Mrs David Belton, of Hale, Cheshire, and Zoë, eldest daughter of Mr Guy Elgood, of Harrow, and Mrs Susie Warwick, of St Albans, Hertfordshire.

Mr H.D. Cardozo
and Miss V.L.S. Marshall
The engagement is announced between Hugh, younger son of Mr and Mrs Martin Cardozo, of Berden, Hertfordshire, and Victoria, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Marshall, of South Stoke, Bath.

Mr S.A.B. Daniels
and Miss K.A. Openshaw
The engagement is announced between Simon, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Ray Daniels, of Merrybent, County Durham, and Katie, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Carl Openshaw, of Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Mr F.T. Firmstone
and Miss C. Stratton-Brown
The engagement is announced between Francis, elder son of Mr and Mrs Christopher Firmstone, of Wordsley, West Midlands, and Claire, daughter of Mr and Mrs Colin Stratton-Brown, of Leigh, Kent.

Mr G.F. Frankland
and Miss C.J. Gant
The engagement is announced between Graham, son of Mr and Mrs Gordon Frankland, of Ely, Cambridgeshire, and Catherine, daughter of the Revd Peter and Mrs Gant, of Esher, Surrey.

Mr R.J. Gladwyn
and Miss M.M. Watt
The engagement is announced between Richard, younger son of Mr and Mrs David Gladwyn, of Feock, Truro, Cornwall, and Melanie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Terras Watt, of Edinburgh.

Mr T.L. Hansell
and Miss N.I.J. Forrest
The engagement is announced between Tim, son of Mr and Mrs John Hansell, of North Wootton, Norfolk, and Naomi, daughter of Mr and Mrs W. Logan Forrest, of Westerhall, Berwickshire.

Mr W.M.C. Henderson
and Miss J.C. McCabe
The engagement is announced between Crawford, younger son of Dr and Mrs James Henderson, of Strone, Argyll, and Jacqueline, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Raymond McCabe, of Whitecraigs, Glasgow.

Mr G. Leibler
and Miss R. Landau
The engagement is announced between Gary, son of Mr and Mrs I. Leibler, of Melbourne, Australia, and Rose, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ervin Landau, of Hampstead, London.

Mr N.J. Muston
and Miss L.J.A. Ward
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Mrs Patricia Muston-Wise, of Shoreham, and Mr Clive Muston, of Ashwell, and Isobel, daughter of Mr and Mrs John R. Ward, of Roehampton.

Mr D.F. Osler
and Miss H.E.G. FitzGerald
The engagement is announced between Duncan, son of Dr David Osler and the late Mrs Meryll Osler, of South Queensferry, and Harriet, daughter of Michael FitzGerald, QC, of Knightsbridge, London, and Mrs Virginia FitzGerald, of Exmoor, Somerset.

Mr R.A. Pappworth
and Miss A.T. Pellew
The engagement is announced between Adam, son of Mr and Mrs Sidney Pappworth, of Greenmoor, Sheffield, and Alexandra, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Myles Pellew, of Walton-on-the-Hill, Surrey.

Mr T.W. Roskill
and Mrs S.E. Bates
The engagement is announced between Thomas Roskill, of Brockhampton, Hereford, and Susie Bates, of Lewes, East Sussex.

Mr D.R. Walters
and Miss E.C. Kimber
The engagement is announced between Russell, son of Mr and Mrs Raymond Walters, of Aberdare, Glamorgan, and Elizabeth, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Paul Kimber, of Putney, London.

Marriages

The Hon John Pakington
and Miss S. Caldato
The marriage took place quietly in London on Friday, October 4, 1996, of Johnnie Pakington, son of Lord and Lady Hampton, and Siena Caldato, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Remo Caldato.

Mr R.D. Smith-Bingham
and Miss K. Thomas
The marriage took place on Saturday, September 28, at St Peter's Church, Dalby, York, of Mr Richard Smith-Bingham, son of Colonel and Mrs Jeremy Smith-Bingham, to Miss Kate Thomas, daughter of Mr and Mrs William Thomas. The Rev R. Rogers and the Rev Father J. Crawford officiated.

The bride was given in marriage by her father. Mr Thomas Noel was best man.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev Hugh Allen, Rector, Old Cleeve, Leighland and Treborough and Rural Dean of Exmoor (Bath and Wells): to be Priest-in-charge, Kings Stanley and Leonard Stanley, and Assistant Diocesan Local Ministry Officer (part-time) (Gloucester).

The Rev Jonathan Ball, Team Vicar, Rugeley Team Ministry, Church of the Good Shepherd (Lichfield): to be a Chaplain to the Forces.

The Rev Mark Binney, Vicar, Pheasey: to be Team Vicar, Wombourne Team Ministry (Lichfield).

The Rev Nicholas Bradbury, Priest-in-charge, Yatton Keynell, Nettleton, Biddestone w. Slaughterford, Castle Combe, and West Kington: to be Rector, Holy Trinity, Horfield (Bristol).

Canon James Clarke, Bishop's Press Relations and Diocesan Communications Officer (part-time), diocese Leicester: to be Communications Officer for USPG (part time), and continue as Joint Secretary, Committee for Ministry Among Deaf People, Church House, Westminster.

The Rev Michael Cozens, Assistant Curate, All Saints, Emscote (Coventry): to be Assistant Curate, Prestbury (Gloucester).

The Rev John Davis, Vicar, Walsall St Paul and Chaplain, Walsall Town Centre Ministry (Lichfield): West Midlands Network Development Officer for the Prince's Trust.

Resignation

The Rev Gary Hiscock, Associate Minister, Hardwicke, Quedgeley and Elmore w Longney (Gloucester): resigned September 9.

Withdrawal of acceptance

The Rev David Tudor has withdrawn his acceptance of the Living of All Saints' w St Peter, Luton (St Albans), and will continue as NSM, All Saints', Sydenham (Southwark).

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Jesus also said to them, 'Take note of what you hear; the measure you give is the measure you will receive, with something more besides.' Mark 4 : 24

BIRTHS

BONNUS - Congratulations to Kathryn and Robert on the arrival of their daughter Rachel Karen on Monday 7th October 1996. First grandchild of Roger and Hilary Baker and first niece of Merete and Sarah.

CLARK - On October 6th at The Portland Hospital, to Sharon (née Blythe) and Kevin, a beautiful son and heir, Miles.

DANIELS - On 6th October at the John Radcliffe, Oxford, to Loraine (née Bostock-Smith) and Simon, a lovely daughter, Jessica Rose.

DAVIS - On 30th September 1996, to Catherine (née Taylor) and Barry, a daughter, Alexandra Helen.

ELWIDGE - On 5th October, to Victoria (née Holland) and Rusty, a son, George Rufus Tristram, a brother for Miranda and Mitzi.

FLYNN - On 8th October 1996, to Deborah (née Shephard) and Patrick, a son, James Patrick, a brother for Louis.

GARNIER - On September 20th 1996, to Christa (née Watt) and Peter, a daughter, Sara, a sister for Hazel.

HARRIS - On 5th September 1996, at Cheltenham, to Alison (née Gough-Willetts) and Matthew, a daughter, Katie Eleanor, a sister for Daniel and Megan.

HARPER - On 26th September, to Kathryn (née Goosey) and David, a son, Milo Frederick, a brother for Stephanie.

HOCHSCHILD - On Monday October 7th, 1996, at St. Thomas' Hospital, to Jessica Baldwin and Maurice Hochschild, a son, Jack.

JAGGS - On September 27th 1996, to Claire (née Gallant) and Tim, a daughter, Emma Mary Gallant.

MACDONALD - On October 8th, in Edinburgh, to Eleanor (née Gravell) and Richard, a son, Angus Richard, a brother for Alasdair and Hamish.

PETIT - On October 4th at the Matilda Hospital, Hong Kong, to Pegsie (née Pravoan) and Jonathan, a daughter, Ione Catherine Rose, a sister for Hugh and Alick.

PURTON - On October 6th, to Jo (née Barnes) and Tom, a son, Charles Thomas.

BIRTHS

RAINBOW - On September 19th, in Leipzig, to Katy (née Williams) and Henning, a son, William Lutz.

ROCHER - On September 23rd at The Portland Hospital, to Karen (née Walker) and David, a beautiful daughter, Kaylyn Noelle.

WELLS - On October 4th, to Fiona (née Bruce) and John, a daughter, Laura Charlotte.

DEATHS

ADAMSON - Colin Keith, passed away peacefully on 7th October in Putney Hospital, dearly loved husband of Margot and father of Alastair. Funeral to Putney Vale Crematorium on Monday 14th October at 3.30pm. Family flowers only. Donations if wished to Parkinson's Disease Society. Enquiries to Eversheds Brothers Ltd, (0181) 874 1781.

BAKER-LACE - Douglas Frederick, on 26th September 1996 aged 77 years, after a short illness. Much loved husband of Andrea and father of David. Funeral has taken place.

BARONE - Luigi, suddenly on 7th October, much loved husband, father and brother. Family funeral to take place in Italy. Memorial service will be announced soon.

BATTY - Geoffrey Charles B.E.M. Passed peacefully away on Wednesday 9th October 1996 at the Royal United Hospital, Bath. Dearly loved husband of Doreen and much loved father of Tony, Carol, David and Jackie; daughters-in-law Norma and Kay; grandchildren Samantha, Elizabeth, Wesley and Sian. Funeral Service at Haycombe Crematorium, Bath, on Monday 14th October 1996 at 11am. Family flowers only, donations if desired for: "The Sheilagh Mc Brien Coronary Care Unit, RUH." c/o G.F. Hunt, Funeral Directors, 41, Livingstone Rd, Bath. BA2 3PH.

BULL - Dudley Archibald on October 8th, peacefully at the Bell House, Mereworth, aged 96. Beloved husband of the late Muriel, much loved father, uncle, grandfather and great-grandfather. Founder of the Hawthorns School and joint Headmaster until 1965. Funeral Service St. Peter and St. Paul, Nutfield, at 11am on 14th October. Family flowers only, donations if wished to Christian Aid, c/o Stoneman Funeral Services, Doran Court, Redhill RH1 6AZ.

CASSIDY-PETERZAN - Paula passed away graciously and courageously on Wednesday 2nd October in the Samaritan Hospital Marylebone. Beloved wife of Jamie, wonderful daughter of Marian and Peter, dear sister of Amanda and David, enchanting friend to all who knew her. Paula's Spirit and happiness will live forever within us. A service to celebrate her life and home coming to Hanley will take place in the Church of St Mary the Virgin, at 4pm on Friday 11th October. Family flowers only please, but donations would be gratefully accepted on behalf of Cancer Relief c/o the World Wildlife Fund c/o Tomalin & Son, Anderson House, 38 Reading Road, Henley-on-Thames.

CHAPLIN - Bernard. Passed away peacefully in his 89th year at Blackheath Hospital on 6th October. Will be much missed by his niece, nephews and great-nephews and by all his friends. Funeral at Lewisham Crematorium, Verdant Lane, Catford SE6, 4pm Wednesday 16th October. No flowers please, donations to Parkinson's Disease Society, 22 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0RA

CORDEAUX - On 8th October, peacefully at home, Mildred Jessie, widow of Lieutenant Colonel J K Cordeaux. Cremation at Golders Green East Chapel on Tuesday 15th October at 12.45pm. Enquiries to W.G. Miller & Co. (0171) 226 3886

DOLON - On 8th October 1996, G. John Dixon, M.D., F.R.C.P., aged 87, of Rye, Glasgow and Dublin, much loved father and grandfather, peacefully in Tucson, Arizona, where a memorial will be held.

GRAHAM - Dr. James Claverhouse Graham OBE, ESt.J, MRCS, LRCP, FFOM. Died at home on October 9th. Beloved and loving husband of Mary. Dear father of Alison and caring grandpa and great-grandfather. Service at St. Marylebone Crematorium, East End Road, N2, Wednesday October 16th at 1pm. No flowers - no sadness - only happy memories.

HAMILTON - William. Husband of the late Muriel, father of Lisa and James and grandfather of Victoria and Thomas. Peacefully in his sleep on 6th October, in his 94th year. Funeral service at St. Peter's Church, Frinsley, at 3.00 pm on Wednesday 16th October.

KORIN - Frank Paul OBE, died of cancer 29th September. The funeral has taken place.

LAMB - T.W, Capt. R.N. (retd.) in Cape Town on October 9th, formerly of South Nutfield and Uckfield.

MACKENZIE - Vice Admiral Sir Hugh Stirling Mackenzie, KCB, DSO, DSC. Royal Navy (retd.). Suddenly at home on October 8th, very dearly loved husband of Maureen, beloved father of Helen, James and Alice, and much loved by his four grandchildren. Private family funeral service. Thanksgiving service to be arranged. Donations to the R.N. Submarine Museum, Gosport, Hants. or to the Atlantic Salmon Research Trust.

MARTIN - On 8th October, peacefully at Odiham Cottage Hospital, Alison Mary (Bebe), wife of Colonel Alex Martin and mother of Susie and Robert. Funeral Service at St. John's Hartley Wintney at 12.15 am on Thursday October 17th. No flowers please but donations if wished to Arthritis and Rheumatism Council, c/o A. & W. Goddard, Kent Rd, Fleet, Hants. GU13 9AH. (01252) 616431.

McINTYRE - Kenneth James, O.B.E. (Lt. Col. R.A. retired), on October 4th, aged 77. Beloved husband of Ann, father of Heather, Pippa and Jenna. Thanksgiving Service noon Saturday October 19th at Steeple Langford. Donations if wished to Salisbury Hospice Care Trust.

McSHERRY - Sarah Elizabeth (Sybil), wife of James, mother of Debbie and Robert, died suddenly on 8th October 1996. Funeral to be held at St. Thomas a Becket, Brighting, East Sussex on 14th October at 11.30am, followed by cremation. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Oxfam.

MORRIS - Nancy. On October 7th 1996, aged 91. Wife of the late Captain. S H Norris DSO, DSC, RN., killed in action in Yugoslavia in 1944. Much loved mother of Robert, John and Stephen. Private family cremation. Service of Thanksgiving at Old Alresford Parish Church at a later date. No flowers, but donations instead, if desired, to The NSPCC, c/o Jno. Steel & Son Ltd., 6 Chesil Street, Winchester SO23 0HU

OSBORN - Harold, on Sunday 6th October 1996, peacefully at the Royal Free Hospital, deeply mourned by his wife Gerda and sadly missed by all family and friends. Cremation at St. Marylebone Cemetery, East End Road, N2 on Tuesday 15th October at 11.30am. Family flowers only. Donations to British Heart Foundation or Diabetic Society.

PALMER - Patricia June (née Stevenson). On Monday October 7th, peacefully at Dorothy House, Winsley, Nr. Bath, after long illness. Beloved wife of Leslie, and adored mother of Devin, Dina, and Steven. Funeral Service at Haycombe Crematorium, Bath, Tuesday, October 15th, at 12.30pm. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to Dorothy House Foundation, Winsley, Wilts.

PERKINS - On 7th October 1996, in Nottingham, Joseph E.J., aged 92. Funeral service at St. James Church, Papplewick, Notts, on Tuesday 15th October at 11am. Floral tributes or donations to Dina Atter/Shield Cancer Research Fund, c/o Bagnley Bros. Funeral Directors, Nottingham; tel: (0115) 960 5197

READER HARRIS - Dame Diana, D.B.E., on 7th October, 1996, peacefully at home in Salisbury, aged 83 years. Dearly loved by her family Sue, June, Joanna, Christopher, Michael, Sarah and their families and her many friends world wide. Funeral service at Salisbury Cathedral at 12 noon Thursday October 17th, 1996. All are welcome. Followed by a private cremation later. A memorial service will be held in Sherborne Abbey at a date to be announced. Family flowers only, donations for Church Missionary Society and/or Christian Aid, c/o LN. Newman Ltd., Griffin House, 55 Winchester Street, Salisbury, Wilts. SP1 1HL.

REED - Doreen, on 8th October, 1996, peacefully at Redleigh Salterton, aged 98 years. Daughter of the late T. M. Reed of Bridgwater, Somerset and dearly loved aunt to her nephews and nieces.

RIDDLE - Brigadier Robert William, O.B.E., D.L. "Bob". Peacefully at home after a prolonged illness. Private family funeral. Thanksgiving service 11am Wednesday 16th October 1996 at the Sacred Heart R.C. Church, Penicuik.

ROBERTS - Dorothy died peacefully on 8th October 1996 at the Harestone Marie Curie Centre, Caterham, aged 87. She will be greatly missed by her son Christopher, other family members and her many friends. The funeral will take place at St. Paul's Church, Woldingham, at 2pm, on Tuesday 15th October, followed by a private cremation. Any donations to the Harestone Marie Curie Centre.

SHERMAN - On 7th October 1996, peacefully in hospital, Jack aged 83 years of West Town, Backwell, North Somerset. Dear brother of Harry and Uncle of John. Funeral Service at St. Andrew's Church, Backwell, Tuesday 15th October at 12 noon. Family flowers only please but donations if desired for British Heart Foundation may be sent to R. G. Rawlings Ltd. Funeral Directors, 5 Woodlands Road, Clevedon, North Somerset BS21 7QD. Tel: 01275 873210.

RUSSELL - Dr William Michael, on 4th October, dearly loved and sadly missed by his wife Wendy, daughters Caroline, Patricia and Fiona, son James, son-in-law Mark Flexman, mother Jean Russell and sister Helen Russell. Funeral Service at Canford Magna Parish Church in the grounds of Canford School at 2 p.m. Monday 14th October. Thanksgiving Service at St. Margaret's Church, Bethersden, Kent, on Wednesday, 30th October at 12 noon. Friends are welcome to either service. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to PRAMACare, or Great Ormond St. Childrens' Hospital Fund, c/o Charles Snell & Son, 15 West Street, Wimbourne, Dorset BH21 1JR. Tel: (01202) 882372.

SMITH - Thomas Bruce, (Retired Gas Engineer), suddenly at his home in Halesowen on September 21st 1996, aged 69. Interment at Grangemouth, Scotland, on October 3rd. He will be sadly missed by his brother George, the family, and his many friends particularly in Birmingham, South Wales, Huddersfield, London and Cyprus.

STONE - Greystones, Co. Wicklow, October 4th 1996 in hospital, Joan, loving wife of the late Henry C.M. Stone, and grandmother to Charles, Ashley and Jeremy. Service on Tuesday next October 15th at 12 noon in Christ Church, Delgany, followed by interment in adjoining churchyard family flowers only please. Donations if desired to charity of your choice.

VICKERS - Ethel (Mickie) on October 8th, peacefully after a very short illness. Devoted widow of Jack and dearly loved mother of Patricia, mother-in-law and grandmother.

WATTERS - John Russell, on October 5th, suddenly but peacefully at home. Funeral private. Thanksgiving Service on Monday October 21st at Holy Trinity Church, Rudgwick at 3pm, to which all friends will be very welcome.

TYRRELL - On 30th September 1996, suddenly in hospital, Margaret Eloise Tyrrell. Requiem Mass at St. James Church, Spanish Place, London W.1. on Thursday 17th October at 11am. Followed by cremation at Golders Green at 12.30pm. Flowers and enquiries to A. Prance & Son. (0171) 405 4901.

WENSLEY WALKER - Adrian, on October 4th, peacefully at home in Kinsale, Co. Cork, after a long fitness bravely borne. Beloved husband of Susie and much loved father of Edward and Anabel. Sadly missed by his wife and family, sister Ann, niece Clare, relatives and friends.

WILLIAMS - On October 8th, Lawrence Paul, A.R.I.B.A., A.A.Dip. Peacefully following a short illness, aged 91. Funeral Service at Aston Rowant Church 11.30am Thursday October 17th. Family flowers only, but donations to a Cancer charity of your choice would be appropriate.

RUSSELL-SMITH - Cecilia Eleanor, aged 88. Peacefully in hospital on 7th October. Much loved wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother. Her funeral service takes place at St. Peters Church, Moulton, on Monday 14th October at 11.30am, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only, donations if desired to St. Nicholas Hospice, c/o L Fulcher, 80 Whiting Street, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 1NX.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

THOMSON - Desmond Charles Bryan, beloved father and grandfather, formerly of British Leyland and Toshiba, died suddenly on 30th September 1996. His family would like to thank everybody for flowers, donations and kindness.

TREASURE Your memories... with a loving 'In Memoriam' notice in The Times. Call our helpful friendly staff on 0171 680 6883.

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OBITUARIES

ROY LEWIS

Roy Lewis, author and former Commonwealth Correspondent of *The Times*, died yesterday aged 76. He was born on November 6, 1919.



In his day Roy Lewis was one of the best informed and most perceptive journalists writing about Commonwealth and African affairs. He combined a sympathetic understanding of what, in the twilight of empire, both colonial officials and nationalist politicians were trying to do, with a nice scepticism about their eventual success in doing it.

He was often right when others were wrong, notably at *The Times* where he arrived from *The Economist* as Commonwealth Correspondent in 1961. When, in 1969 during the Nigeria-Biafra crisis, though the paper's acknowledged Africa expert, he was sidelined and the coverage of the civil war handed to the young Winston S. Churchill (later to become a Lancashire MP), Lewis argued against the line taken by the newcomer and supported in leading articles by the then Editor of *The Times*, William Rees-Mogg. This was that the Nigerian Government was evil and bullying and that the Nigerian federation was doomed to collapse. Lewis's judgment was vindicated when it was in fact Biafra which collapsed, to be subsumed again into the federation.

Lewis was not long afterwards to be in conflict with his Editor again, when he took part in the famous "revolt of the Black Friars" in the following year. He was one of 29 signatories to a letter to the Editor in which a powerful group consisting of some of the paper's most distinguished journalists deplored what they saw as a lowering of editorial standards. The protest — and the somewhat bland letter which expressed it — actually went deeper than that. With the euphoria of the early years of the Thomson ownership of the paper fading, many older *Times* men were inclined to blame the deepening loss of confidence and direction on what they saw as the introduction of a number of brash newcomers from *The Sunday Times* and the consequent development of a more abrasive, less courteous, conduct of office life.

Like most such protests it achieved little in practical terms, satisfying though it was to those who subscribed to it. But it was an interesting item along the road *The Times* was treading in those days as it tried to shrug off its traditions and come to terms with the contemporary world. In the event, Lewis's own career on the paper had not much further to run. He retired in 1971, but continued to be a welcome contributor for a number of years after that.

But he had many other strings to his bow. He had already written a variety of books ranging from sociological, biographical and political studies to a series of accomplished novels, and this authorship continued after 1971. But perhaps the finest achievement of his later years was the volumes of poetry he printed on his own press.

Ernest Michael Roy Lewis was the son of Ernest Isaac Lewis, an industrial chemist and pioneer of business education in schools. He was educated at King Edward VI's School, Birmingham, and University College, Oxford. After a year at the London School of Economics and another at Chatham House, he joined the staff of *The Statist*.

Lewis married Christine May Tew in 1938. He and his bride immediately decided that, as the world was obviously soon to change for the worse, if they were to see anything of it, they had better do so straight away. With only the minimum of funds they took passage for the Antipodes via the Panama Canal and Pitcairn Islands. On arrival in Australia, they supported themselves by freelance work until Lewis was adopted as a member of the kitchen cabinet of the Premier of New South Wales, Sir Bertram Stevens. It was there that the Second World War caught up with him.

Wars, as Lewis was often to remark, are liable to cast people in the oddest roles. His was to become a sort of semi-official purchasing officer in India for the Chinese Government. Stevens had been appointed Australian representative on the Eastern Group Supply Council with its headquarters in Delhi, and he took Lewis with him. Lewis travelled widely in the area east of Suez where the council operated, but its work inevitably came to an end when Japan entered the war.

A brief interlude in the Indian cavalry ended with Lewis joining the Peking Syndicate, a large commercial firm which had moved to Chungking, the wartime capital of China. He now became the accredited agent of the Kuomintang leader Chiang Kai-shek. As such, he was empowered to buy anything useful to the nationalist war effort — weapons, coal, gold, whisky, and, on one occasion, three million uniforms — and arrange for the stuff to be flown over "The Hump", the great mountain range between Assam and China.

Lewis returned to England in 1946, and as well as holding jobs on a number of ephemeral publications, turned to authorship. Three books, *Shall I Emigrate?* (1948), *The English Middle Classes* (1949) and *Professional People* (1953), written in conjunction with Angus Maude, established his reputation. But actually more useful to his future career was a commission to write a book, which never got published, on pest control in Africa. This took him all over the African continent and gave him a (literally) grass-roots knowledge of its agricultural — and so of its political — problems which probably no other English journalist possessed at that time.

The Colonial Office commissioned him to write a handbook on Sierra Leone, which appeared in 1954. In that year, too, Geoffrey Crowther persuaded him to start writing for *The Economist* where, except for a year as editor of *The New Commonwealth*, he remained until he joined *The Times* in 1961.

It was as a member of the staff of *The Economist* that Lewis displayed his full versatility, writing not only on his specialised subjects but also on education, local government, and politics, as well as editing its supplements. As its Defence Correspondent Lewis also covered the Suez operation of 1956 on the spot.

He was *The Economist's* Washington Correspondent when *The Times* lured him back to London to take over the Commonwealth and African responsibilities which had till then been the charge of the veteran war correspondent Oliver Woods. Here, too, Lewis was very far from being the desk-bound leader writer type. He covered the wars in the Congo and in Nigeria, and UDI in Rhodesia.

After he retired in 1971, he continued to contribute to the paper for another ten years. His books included *The Boss* (1958) a study of British businessmen, written with Rosemary Stuart; *The British In Africa* (1971), written with Yvonne Fry (1971); a study of Enoch Powell (a fellow scholar at King Edward's), in 1979 and a book about the police in 1976.

In tandem with his non-fiction he had a prolific career as a novelist, with a particular bent for fantasy, science fiction and the thriller. His titles never sold heavily in this country but he was immensely popular on the Continent. In particular *The Evolution Man* (1960) was a runaway bestseller in Italy and had a great success in France, too, where it was translated by Vercors. It was dramatised in French and a film cartoon was made of it in Czechoslovakia.

His most recent essays in the fantasy genre were *A Walk with Mr Gladstone* (1991) which described an imaginary meeting with the great Liberal statesman in the context of his preoccupation with prostitutes. *Cock of the Walk* (1995) was a similar exercise which dealt with reaction to the establishment of Britain's first Roman Catholic archbishop since the Reformation, Cardinal Wiseman, in 1850.

But perhaps as close to Lewis's heart as any of these was the series of illustrated poems, by poets known and unknown, which he produced on his hand-press. These, published under the imprint The Keepsake Press, are models of what a skilled amateur printer can turn out. Among the poets he printed were names like Peter Redgrove, Charles Causley, Gavin Ewart, John Press and Vernon Scannell. He later gave the output of his press to Reading University Library.

Lewis's wife Christine died in 1993. He is survived by his two daughters.

LORD FINSBERG

Lord Finsberg, MBE, former Conservative MP and junior minister, died on October 8 aged 70. He was born on June 13, 1926.



THE death of Lord Finsberg in Stockholm has deprived politics of almost the last of its prominent Young Conservatives. As Geoffrey Finsberg, he was chairman of the Hampstead Young Conservatives at the age of 22, during a period in which that constituency could boast of an army of political footsoldiers nearly 1,000-strong. The Young Conservative Organisation, resurrected by Lord Woolton, was then very much in its prime.

Geoffrey Finsberg, who was educated at City of London School, was Jewish in a constituency where the Jewish population made up a third of the electorate. He was a solemn young man, devoted to political activity. The YCs met each Tuesday in a dingy office covered with coloured posters of such luminaries as Oliver Lyttelton and "Captain" Macmillan. A dedicated disciple of Lord Woolton, Finsberg wanted, like his mentor, to build 300,000 houses a year; most of his colleagues were frankly more interested in tennis, badminton and girls.

Finsberg was determined not only to become national chairman of the Young Conservatives, then some 100,000-strong (which he duly did, collecting the regulation MBE in the process), but also to get into Parliament. To that end, he conspired, along with many others, to rid Hampstead of its sitting MP, Charles Challen, and to replace him with Henry Brooke, later to become a controversial Home Secretary in Harold Macmillan's Government. Finsberg saw himself in the direct line of succession and eventually was elected MP for Hampstead in 1970. (He retired — though by now the seat was Highgate and Hampstead — in 1992 and was promptly created a life peer.)

He never progressed beyond the ranks of junior minister at the Departments of Health and Social Security and Environment (though those two posts were enough to bring him his knighthood in 1984). This could have been because he lacked excitement. His public persona was dull; in private, he could be an amusing companion. But he was an able administrator. He had also been a "Bevin Boy" — one of those directed to work down the coalmines during the Second World War.

Geoffrey Finsberg's career, which had languished somewhat in office, gained a new lease of life when he was appointed to the Conservative delegation to the Council of Europe and the Western European Union. In 1991, he was elected president of the Assembly of the Council of Europe over which he presided with the aplomb that he had shown forty years before in Hampstead. He was one of nature's chairmen, brisk in the conduct of business.

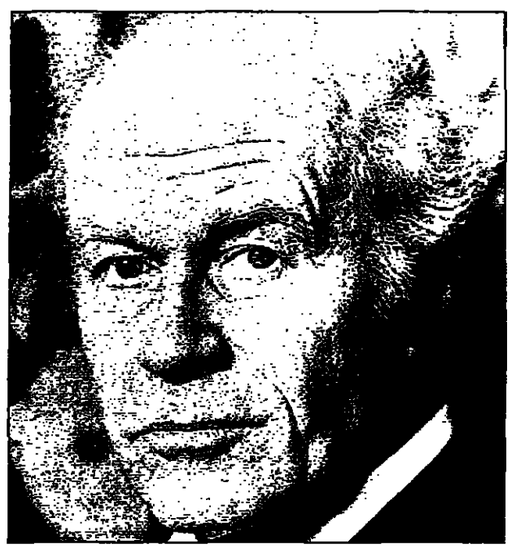
Finsberg's death leaves only Peter Walker, now Lord Walker of Worcester, and Sir William van Straubenzee who can trace their political careers back to the beginnings of the Young Conservative movement. Finsberg took advantage of the ladder of opportunity that Lord Woolton had let down into the tennis-playing suburbs of Britain to climb, via the Commons, into the Lords.

Yet the sadness is that Finsberg would hardly recognise today's YCs, for the movement has shrunk to around 3,000 and is dominated by Scots youths with a taste for right-wing politics and Tartan Ale. In Finsberg's day the purpose of the YCs was to win office for the Tories — and he, as a former leader of Camden Council as well as being an MP, was a walking advertisement for their ethos and energy.

Geoffrey Finsberg was twice married: first to Pamela Hill, a comrade in arms in Hampstead, and after her death in 1989 to Elizabeth Wright. There were no children.

SIR NIGEL FISHER

Sir Nigel Fisher, MC, former Conservative MP and junior minister, died yesterday aged 83. He was born on July 14, 1913.



NIGEL FISHER was one of those nearly men of British politics who frequently give their parties solid service without ever really making it into the front rank. But, insofar as he had been both a junior minister and a long-serving member of the Executive of the 1922 Committee, Nigel Fisher was perhaps a little unlucky in that he was never elevated to the House of Lords.

He himself always believed that his name had been struck off a list submitted by the Government Chief Whip in 1983, when he left the Commons, at the personal direction of Margaret Thatcher. He had played some part as a member of "the Milk Street mafia" in seeing to it that she displaced Edward Heath as party leader in 1975; but there was always too big a gulf in their political attitudes for there to be much of a bond of sympathy between them.

Nigel Thomas Loveridge Fisher was the son of Commander Sir Thomas Fisher and the stepson of Sir Geoffrey Shakespeare, a former Liberal and then Liberal National MP, to whom he was greatly attached.

He was educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge. He served in the war in the Welsh Guards and, in an Army career of exceptional gallantry, he was mentioned in dispatches in 1940 and was awarded the Military Cross in 1945.

He contested Chislehurst in the 1945 general election but lost the seat in the Labour avalanche of that year. In 1950 he was elected MP for Hitchin. In 1955, having run into some trouble with the Hitchin association over his divorce from his first wife, he was elected for the new constituency of Surbiton, which was to be renamed Kingston upon Thames, Surbiton, in 1974.

Fisher was on the liberal wing of the Conservative Party. He became an intimate friend of Iain Macleod and fully supported the rapid granting of independence to Britain's African colonies, which was the main feature of the latter's tenure of office as Colonial Secretary.

He himself was appointed Parliamentary Under-Secretary for the Colonies in 1962 and, when the Colonial Office and the Commonwealth Relations Office were temporarily merged between 1963 and 1964, with Duncan Sandys as Secretary of State, he remained an Under-Secretary in the combined department.

He developed close friendships with many of the new African leaders, including Hastings Banda, Kenneth Kaunda and Julius Nyerere. He first visited the Caribbean in the early 1950s and gained personal knowledge of every former British colony in the area. His familiarity with the Caribbean and his multitude of West Indian friends led him to oppose the original Commonwealth Immigrants Act of 1962.

When the West Indian Federation collapsed in 1962, after Jamaica decided to withdraw from it as a result of a referendum, to be followed shortly afterwards by Trinidad, Fisher was given the unhappy task of trying to salvage a smaller federation centred on Barbados and including the Leeward and Windward Islands. Unhappily, Barbados decided to opt for independence as well and his negotiations came to nothing.

In August 1964 he was offered and accepted the post of British High Commissioner in Kenya. He made, as he thought, his last speech in the House of Commons on July 29, 1964. During the night he decided that he could not bear to leave the Commons, and his wife Patsie went the following day to see Duncan Sandys, who reluctantly agreed to rescind the appointment, which was shortly to be made public, having been agreed with the Government of Kenya. He was knighted in 1964.

In Opposition, after Harold Wilson's victory of 1964, Fisher remained a frontbench spokesman for Colonial and Commonwealth affairs for a brief period, and then reverted to the back benches. In 1968 and 1969 there was a determined attempt to oust him from Surbiton from within his own constituency executive committee on the ground that he was too progressive.

Iain Macleod wrote a letter to *The Times* in his support, and also wrote him a personal note which read: "As you will see, I have written to *The Times*. I have also written to Willy [Whitelaw] and said that if you go, I go. And so I will!" Fisher eventually gained a vote of confidence from his constituency, but he did not receive any open support, which he had expected, from Edward Heath as leader of the Conservative Party.

He was not asked to serve in the Heath Government of 1970 but as a much-liked man he became an influential backbencher and a member of the 1922 Executive Committee. He also had a number of friends on the other side of the House.

In 1935 Fisher married Lady Gloria Vaughan, eldest daughter of the 7th Earl of Lisburne. The marriage was dissolved in 1952. In 1956 he married Mrs Patricia Ford, who had briefly sat in the House of Commons, 1953-55, in succession to her father, Sir Walter Smiles, who was drowned in the Belfast ferry disaster of 1953.

Fisher was an able writer and in 1973 produced the first biography of Iain Macleod. The book was launched at No 11 Downing Street and, with typical generosity, Fisher gave both his advance and royalties to Macleod's widow Eve, who had been left in straitened circumstances. He later, in 1977, published an interesting study called *The Tory Leaders* and in 1983 produced a biographical portrait of Harold Macmillan, long since superseded by Alistair Horne's two-volume official work.

Fisher was a figure of medium height, lean and spry. As a young man he had been startlingly good-looking. He had an engaging smile and an infectious laugh. He was a man of both moral and physical courage. The ultimate truth was that he was probably too nice — and certainly too open-minded — to succeed in politics.

His second wife died last year and he himself had for some time been under professional care. He is survived by a son and a daughter — the former of whom is a Labour MP and Opposition spokesman on the Arts.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity: The Lighthouse Club Benevolent Fund
Scheme
Reference: AIR/205670-25/745/CR/Ly-Admin/1
The Commissioners propose to make a Scheme for this charity. A copy of the draft Scheme can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to 2nd Floor, 20 Kings Parade, Queens Dock, Liverpool L3 4DQ quoting reference above. Comments or representations can be made within one month from today.

LEGAL NOTICES

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
DAVID SCOTT GROUP PLC
(IN CREDITORS VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the members of the above named company are required on or before the 31 day of October 1996 to send in writing their names and addresses and the particulars of their debts or claims, if any, to Cecil Daly, Temple Court, 35 Bull Street, Birmingham, B4 6JT, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such shareholding is proved.
DATED this 19th day of September 1996
D J Cooney - Liquidator

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES
TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE
0171-782 7344
FAX: 0171-782 7827
Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE of resolution for payment of capital
BIRCHOVER ASSURED (1991) LIMITED
Company Number: 2580673
NOTICE is hereby given in accordance with s.175 of the Companies Act 1985 that:
1. the above named company ("the company") has approved a payment out of capital for the purpose of acquiring its own shares by purchase,
2. the amount of the permissible capital payment for the shares in question is £254,800.00,
3. the date for the resolution for payment out of capital is 8th October 1996,
4. a statutory declaration and auditor's reports required by s.173 of the Companies Act 1985 are available for inspection at the Company's registered office and,
5. any creditor of the Company may at any time within the five weeks immediately following the date of resolution for payment out of capital apply to the Court under s.176 of the Companies Act 1985 for an order prohibiting the payment.
Rachel Wilson
Company Secretary
Dated 8th October 1996

THE INSOLVENCY RULES 1986
RULE 4.106(1)
Capital House International Holdings Limited
Capital House ESP Nominees Limited
Charterhouse Unit Trust Managers Limited
Gracechurch Nominees Limited
NBS Investments Limited
Wellington Investment Services Limited
Wellington Financial Services Limited
Wellington Fund Managers Limited
(All in Members' Voluntary Liquidation)
Notice is hereby given that I, Melvyn Laurence Rose of Messrs. Elliot, Woolfe & Rose, Chartered Accountants, Premier House, 112 Station Road, Edgware, Middlesex, HA8 7YT was appointed Liquidator of the above named Companies on 30 September 1996.
Notice is also hereby given that the Creditors of the above named Companies, which are being voluntarily wound up, are required, on or before the 30 November 1996, to send in their full christian and surnames, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to the undersigned Melvyn L. Rose of Messrs. Elliot, Woolfe, Rose, Premier House, 112 Station Road, Edgware, Middlesex, HA8 7YT the Liquidator of the said Companies, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are, personally or by their Solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.
Dated this 2 October 1996
MELVYN L ROSE, FCA, Liquidator
Dated 2 October 1996
This notice is purely formal. All known Creditors have been or will be, paid in full.



STOLL THEATRE

"PORGY AND BESS"

The first presentation in London of what is indeed a folk opera (complete with shanties, spirituals, street vendors' calls and dances), which took place last night with an all-Negro cast, could not fail to arouse enormous interest. Whether with all its high-powered theatrical impetus it touched the emotions or yielded the authentic artistic pleasure is another matter. The drama, taken from the novel of Dubose Heyward, wins sympathy for the Negro community, authentically and engagingly presented therein, but the composer is not equal to the task of matching it with worthy music. Popular music of restaurant level is the lowest common denominator of Viennese operetta and is quite unequal to depicting, for instance, Porgy's lament over his lost love, and there was an entracte that sank into an abyss of hardly credible banality. Yet when Gershwin writes in the Negro-folk idiom strength flows into his work, and with strength both emotion and beauty — the dreadful "Where's my Bess" is immediately succeeded by the sincere and moving "I'm on my way." Being derived from a novel, the libretto is inevitably episodic, yet the music is almost continuous, the action clear, and the numerous residents of Catfish Row are soon sharply enough characterized. There is Porgy, the cripple beggar, vividly acted and sung by Mr. William Warfield, who has a warm baritone voice of ingratiating quality. There is Bess, the weak but affectionate cause of the quarrels in Charleston brought to life by Miss Leontyne Price. There is Crown, the giant of a man, frighteningly impersonated by Mr. John McCurry. Then there are the sharply drawn personalities of Maria, the leader of the community, whose moral authority Miss Georgia Burke makes credible, and of the odious Sportin' Life made doubly odious by Mr. Cab Calloway's skill. The volatile moods of the negro, his generosity, his humour, his religion, his proneness to violence, provide plenty of entertainment from the sentimental to the amusing. The relation of these variegated dramatic tableaux to the music is like that in Menotti's *The Consul*, in that a musical lingua franca is used to enhance theatrical situations. It rather looks as though American composers are attempting an indigenous opera from that point of view. European experience is that though it is feasible in theory it does not work in practice, which demands a strong and individual, not a trite and derivative, music.

ON THIS DAY

October 10, 1952

The arrival of this negro folk opera in London was a major theatrical occasion. Critics voiced reservations, but a first-night audience, estimated at 2,600, "cheered it to the echo"

NEWS

Tories clear decks for election

■ Ministers cleared the decks ready for the general election by pruning controversial measures from the next parliamentary session to leave only populist Bills aimed at winning the votes of the "hardworking classes".

Expensive and contentious legislation, such as the introduction of identity cards and new rules on financing elderly people in nursing home, has been dropped. Instead, the Government will concentrate on a crackdown on violent crime, benefit fraud and indiscipline in schools..... **Pages 1, 8, 9**

Prince consoles parents of Dunblane

■ The Prince of Wales spent an hour in private with the grieving parents of Dunblane after attending a memorial service which took the shattered town one further step out of its darkness. He met the parents in a church hall ..... **Page 1**

Press conduct

Lord Wakeham, chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, called for an urgent review of newspaper conduct after the *Sun* was hoaxed into publishing faked pictures of Diana, Princess of Wales ..... **Page 1**

BSE tests plan

A European expert cast doubts on British forecasts that mad cow disease would die out soon and called for long-term tests using monkeys ..... **Page 2**

Bright and beautiful

The choir of a 12th-century Norfolk parish church has been split after members resigned in protest at having to sing in praise of jet planes refuelling at the harvest festival ..... **Page 3**

Students defiant

Students at The Queen's University of Belfast said that they would abandon their studies if sectarian violence returned to Northern Ireland..... **Page 5**

High life

A nanny, a third family car and a well-stocked wine cellar are the status symbols of Britain's highest earners..... **Page 6**

Nobel prizewinner

The discovery of a form of carbon shaped like a football won a Nobel prize for Professor Harry Kroto of Sussex University. He shares the prize with two American colleagues..... **Page 7**

Name cleared

A sixteen-year campaign to clear his name by a man claiming to have been an SAS officer ended in victory when his conviction for manslaughter was quashed by the Lord Chief Justice..... **Page 10**

Malaria breakthrough

A discovery made by British scientists on an island in the Pacific Ocean could lead to a new approach for vaccinating against malaria..... **Page 11**

Korean tensions

Tensions on the Korean peninsula have risen to the highest level since the end of the Korean War after three peasants were murdered near where three commandos are on the run..... **Page 12**

Taleban halted

The Taleban Islamic militia has been halted in its sweep through Afghanistan. It appears to have suspended its siege of former government forces..... **Page 13**

Silence is golden

French journalists who face losing their long-established tax perks have hit back at politicians where it hurts them most: by threatening not to report a word they say ..... **Page 14**

Dole fights back

As Al Gore and Jack Kemp prepared for a vice-presidential debate, Bob Dole unleashed his first really harsh attacks on Bill Clinton's character..... **Page 16**

Scotland beat the Estonian ghost XI

■ The opposition never stood a chance, principally because they refused to take part. At the Kadriorg Stadium in Tallinn, Estonia, Scotland trooped out and prepared for a World Cup qualifier. But their opponents, protesting over a change in the kick-off time, were still in their training camp. Scotland expect to be awarded the match by a nominal 3-0..... **Page 1**



REID HUBER / AP

Cadinhe McEvoy, the 4-year-old from Northern Ireland who was kidnapped from a Florida hotel, with her parents at a press conference

BUSINESS

Economy: Kenneth Clarke continued to ignore the Bank of England's warnings that interest rates ought to be raised, according to the *minutes of the monetary meeting* held on September 4..... **Page 25**

Rover is close to securing a government subsidy of around £60 million to build an engine plant in the Midlands..... **Page 25**

Inland Revenue: The taxman is "incompetent, insensitive and indifferent", while Customs officials are often overbearing and heavy-handed, an independent watchdog body has claimed..... **Page 25**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 fell 26.5 to 4009.1. Sterling rose from 86.9 to 87.1 after a rise from $1.5631 to $1.5645 and from DM2.3862 to DM2.3909..... **Page 28**

SPORT

Cycling: Chris Boardman attempts to add to a run of seven successive victories by winning the world time-trial championship..... **Page 45**

Golf: Scotland, whose team is Colin Montgomerie, Andrew Coltart and Raymond Russell, begin the defence of the Dunhill Cup at St Andrews..... **Page 46**

Motor racing: Only rogue elements can stop Damon Hill from winning the world drivers' championship. Collision with a backmarker and plumes of smoke from a blown engine are the *images of his nightmares*..... **Page 42**

Rugby union: The Rugby Football Union and leading English clubs will meet at a secret location for make-or-break discussions on the structure of the game..... **Page 44**

ARTS

Films: *Lone Star*, director John Sayles creates a fine drama of dark family secrets in Texas; while *Jack*, starring Robin Williams as a boy *trapped in a man's body, is a mis*-calculated Francis Ford Coppola comedy..... **Page 33**

Home entertainment: A ten-hour, eight-pack video edition of *The Beatles Anthology* offers previously unseen footage; the extraordinary music of Percy Grainger is explored on disc..... **Page 34**

Music awards: Anne Sofie von Otter is named artist of the year by *Gramophone* while Bryn Terfel is the People's Choice..... **Page 35**

Update: With *Les Danaides* in Birmingham the Romanian director Silviu Purcarete has given his own ending to Aeschylus ... **Page 35**

FEATURES

Old men's darlings: Jason Cowley tries to see the attraction of older men for younger women... **Page 17**

Francis Bacon: He falls violently in love with Peter Lacy and his work is indelibly marked..... **Page 19**

Dr Thomas Stuttaford on Linda McCartney and curing breast cancer; meningitis: Guinness really is good for you ..... **Page 18**

BOOKS

Almost down to earth: Alan Bullock on plotting to kill Hitler; Howard Davies studies the return of Margaret Drabble: a new biography of the Queen ..... **Pages 36, 37**

TRAVEL

Easy hop: Cut-price airlines are wooing thousands of business travellers who would otherwise travel by car or train..... **Page 38**

A dream come true: A week's holiday in South Africa can now cost only £500..... **Page 38**

THE PAPERS

The fragility of the Pope raises the *question of his retirement. There is* nothing against it in canon law, although there have been no examples since the Middle Ages. Clearly, John Paul II shows no inclination to retire but that does not detract from the fact that his *ouevre*, long on encidicals and pastoral documents, would appear to be at an end — *El Pais*, Madrid

TV LISTINGS

Preview: It is action before character as the Armed Robbery Squad returns: *Thief Takers* (ITV, 9pm). **Review:** Lynne Truss on a train journey too long..... **Page 47**

OPINION

Impermanent policy

Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine cannot be allowed to hold their party, its government and the national interest hostage... **Page 23**

Heir presumptive

The gravel-voiced general Lebed may find the political terrain as rough as the military campaigns in Moldova and Chechnya... **Page 23**

Live poets' society

In this soundbitten age, when time is one of our most valuable commodities, to read a poem is to enjoy a fullness of expression in one of its briefest and most concentrated forms ..... **Page 23**

COLUMNS

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

Most of those who understand the developments in information technology expect there to be a deep, worldwide erosion of taxing capacity in the next ten years. If the ability to tax and the willingness to be taxed are both in decline the euro will not have the revenue base to support it..... **Page 20**

ALEKSANDR LEBED

Russia has, for the second time, stepped on the same rake. The first time was in Afghanistan. There, we began the war with lofty aims in *mind but ended up with a war* against the people ..... **Page 20**

PETER STOTHARD

In Bournemouth there is a real sense of guilt — churned over and chatted about at every level — that the party is letting down the country in order to keep the Government alive..... **Page 20**

JOHN BRYANT

Can there be a sadder indictment of British sport than the plight of Graham Dilley? The former England fast bowler, forced into retirement with an injury, lined up to sign on for the dole ..... **Page 45**

OBITUARIES

Roy Lewis, author; **Lord Finsberg**, junior minister; **Sir Nigel Fisher**, Conservative MP..... **Page 23**

LETTERS

Lord Wakeham on press complaints; rehabilitation of offenders; sleaze..... **Page 21**



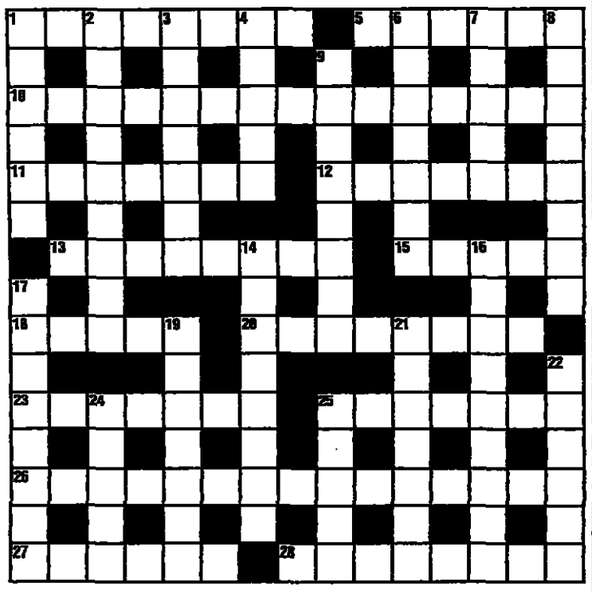
TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **POP**
David Sinclair reviews the legendary recording of the Rolling Stones' *Rock And Roll Circus*

■ **TAX-HAPPY**
Valerie Grove meets the man who says many Britons would be happy to pay more tax

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,295



ACROSS

1 Not being in gear, he can't take off (8).
5 Second characteristic predicament (6).
10 Old conflict with odd cause — ultimately shown for weeks in a jar, pickled? (3,2,7,3).
11 Miserly obsession with Naval Centre shell prices (7).
12 Man's authority can, we hear, reverse many a statute (7).
13 Provide comprehensive cover for equipment in store (8).
15 Strength one displayed in both partnerships (5).
18 Overturn surprising result (5).
20 Very happy to refer back, having cast about internally (8).
23 Philistine collaborator giving head ill-treatment (7).
25 Miserable mine provided uranium lode, initially (7).
26 Classical lovers awkwardly hold hands — an epic ballet (7,3,5).
27 Rock sounds fine (6).
28 A few are reportedly located in this part of England (8).

DOWN

1 Apologetic convert (6).
2 Twisters in corrupt trade, and so on (9).
3 Service angle is disreputable (7).
4 Eratosthenes' riddle (5).
6 Occupies a number of social workers (7).
7 Alias takes in the Spanish leader of the pack (5).
8 Forcibly removed, quickly went below (4,4).
9 Pub game that not all beer may go with (8).
14 Stone me! Your old holy man supports leading article (8).
16 Secure records used for treatment *at one's fingertips* (4-5).
17 Vicarious observer to follow leader to the top (5-3).
19 Gifts of old money (7).
21 A case for diplomacy? (7).
22 Bishop's given warning about prince (6).
24 Drinks for audience in the interval (5).
25 Quietly enthusiastic about horse (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,294

R	A	P	P	R	O	C	H	E	M	E	N	T		
O		U		H		N		A		A		K		
A	L	I	G	N	M	E	N	T		T	A	K	E	N
R		N		T		R		E		S		E		I
I	N	T	R	O		O	G	R	E		D	I	S	C
N			E		O		E		I		S		K	
G	Y	M	N	A	S	T		D	E	M	E	S	N	E
F		I		R				P		U		R		
O	O	L	I	T	I	C		P	R	O	V	E	R	B
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T	W	I	G		E	M	I	T		E	T	H	I	C
I		G		R		M		H		R		I		K
E	N	R	O	L		O	B	E	D	I	E	N	C	E
S		A		E		N		E		S		G		R
		M	E	A	L	S	O	N	W	H	E	E	L	S

Times Two Crossword, page 48

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code:

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Glouces,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Hereffds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises:	Sun sets:
7.16 am	6.18 pm
Moon sets	**Moon rises**
5.27 pm	4.49 am

New moon October 12
London 6.18 pm to 7.18 am
Bristol 6.27 pm to 7.28 am
Edinburgh 6.24 pm to 7.35 am
Manchester 6.24 pm to 7.29 am
Penzance 6.41 pm to 7.38 am

FORECAST

☐ **General:** In England and Wales, cloud and patchy rain or drizzle will clear from the southeast during the morning. Elsewhere, mist or patchy fog will disperse, but perhaps not until midday in a few spots. Otherwise bright or sunny and mostly dry.

Rain over northwest Scotland is likely to be heavy at times. Northern Ireland and south and east Scotland mostly dry with some sunshine.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia:** Cloudy, patchy drizzle. Bright or sunny later. Wind light northeast, becoming southwest. Max 15C (59F).

☐ **Central S, NW, Central N, SW, E England, Midlands, Channel Isles, Wales:** Dry with sunny periods after morning mist or fog has cleared. Fog again later. Wind light southwest. Fine. Max 14C or 15C (57F or 59F).

☐ **Lakes, IoM, NE England, Borders, E'burgh & Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow, N Ireland:** Some early fog. Generally dry but rather cloudy. Some afternoon sunshine. Winds light or moderate southwest. Max 14C (57F).

☐ **Aberdeen, Cent Highlands, Moray Firth, Argyll:** Rather cloudy, outbreaks of rain, bright for a time in afternoon. Wind fresh or strong southwest. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **NE, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** Cloudy, rain, heavy at times. Winds strong southwest. Max 12C or 13C (54F or 55F).

☐ **Outlook:** Cloudy with rain at times in north, mainly dry and brighter in south.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

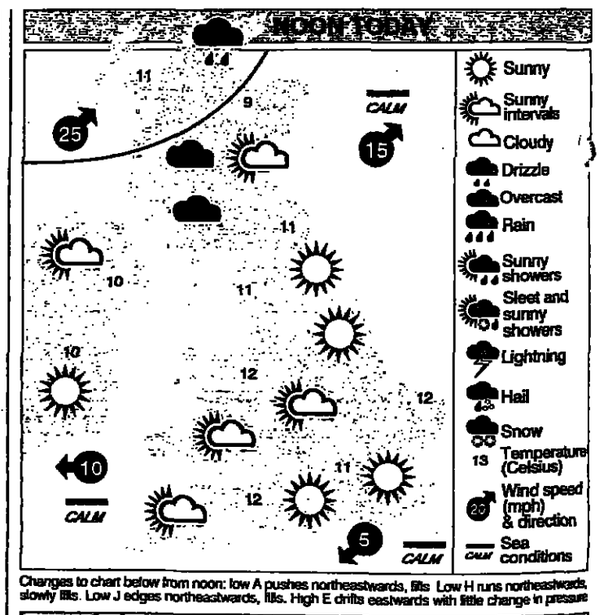
	Sun hrs	Rain in	C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	C	Max F	
Aberdeen	5.0	0.01	16	61	b	Leeds	1.5	0.02	15	59	c
Anglesey	0.9	0.01	14	57	sh	Leuchars	5.3	0.01	14	57	b
Aspatria	3.5	0.01	14	57	c	Littlehmptn	4.1	0.22	15	59	r
Aviemore	3.5	0.06	11	52	sh	London	2.1	0.41	16	61	r
Belfast	0.4	0.02	13	55	c	Lowestoft	0.1	0.11	13	55	r
Birmingham	0.1	0.14	14	57	r	Morecambe	4.0	0.01	14	57	s
Bognor R	4.6	0.19	15	59	s	Newcastle	3.4	0.01	14	57	b
Bournem'th	7.4	0.25	16	61	s	Newquay	0.2	0.03	15	59	c
Bristol	0.2	0.05	14	57	c	Norwich	1.2	0.18	15	59	c
Buxton	0.1	0.08	10	50	d	Oxford	4.5	0.17	14	57	c
Cardiff	-	0.10	14	57	c	Poole	6.0	0.26	16	61	c
Clacton	-	0.03	13	55	r	Ross-o-wye	-	0.06	14	57	c
Colwyn Bay	0.1	0.03	13	55	c	Salcombe	2.6	0.33	18	61	c
Cromer	3.4	0.19	13	55	s	Sandown	5.7	0.24	15	59	b
Eastbourne	0.2	0.19	14	57	r	Saunin Snd	0.4	0.04	14	57	c
Eskdalemuir	4.2	0.03	12	54	c	Scarboro'	0.2	-	14	57	c
Exmouth	1.0	0.15	14	57	b	Shrewsbury	0.2	0.01	13	55	r
Falmouth	0.4	0.18	15	59	c	Skegness	4.7	0.22	16	61	sh
Fishguard	-	0.05	13	55	r	Southend	0.9	0.14	16	61	c
Folkestone	-	0.20	13	55	r	Southport	-	0.01	15	59	s
Glasgow	5.2	0.01	13	55	sh	Southsea	5.8	0.24	16	61	sh
Guernsey	5.3	0.21	16	61	s	Stornoway	3.8	0.08	11	52	s
Hastings	-	0.33	12	54	r	Swanage	6.8	0.37	16	61	c
Hayling I.	4.4	0.25	16	61	s	Teignmouth	0.7	0.20	15	59	s
Herne Bay	-	0.18	13	55	r	Tenby	0.7	0.01	14	57	sh
Hove	3.7	0.04	16	61	b	Tiree	2.5	0.02	12	54	sh
Hunstanton	4.2	0.23	14	57	s	Torquay	1.0	0.23	15	59	c
Isle of Man	2.8	0.01	14	57	b	Ventnor	7.2	0.26	15	59	s
Jersey	4.9	0.16	15	59	s	West-s-mare	-	-	15	59	du
Kinloss	5.4	0.02	13	55	sh	Weymouth	4.0	0.42	16	61	s

ABROAD

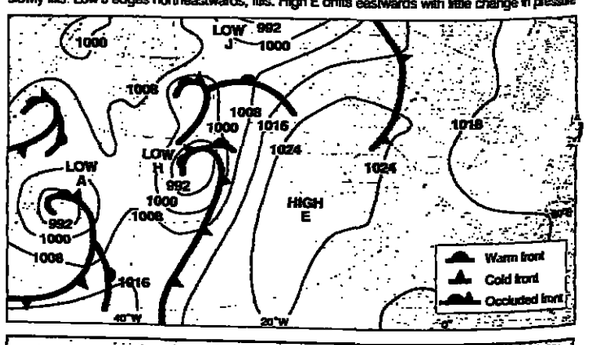
Ajaccio	21	70	f	Corfu	24	75	f	Majorca	19	66	s	Rome	22	72	f
Alicante	26	79	s	C'phagn	12	54	c	Malaga	24	75	s	S Fr'isco	X		
Alex'dria	27	81	s	Dublin	12	54	s	Malta	X			S Paulo	17	63	c
Algiers	22	72	f	Dubrovnik	19	66	r	Melb'rne	15	59	c	Salzburg	13	55	c
Amst'dm	15	59	c	Faro	22	72	s	Mexico C	13	55	f	Santiago	7	45	c
Athens	22	72	f	Florence	20	68	f	Miami	28	82	s	Seoul	19	66	s
B Aires	21	70	s	Frankfurt	17	63	f	Milan	17	63	f	Sing'por	28	82	r
Bahrain	31	88	s	Funchal	23	73	s	Montreal	11	52	f	St'kholm	14	57	du
Bangkok	33	91	f	Geneva	13	55	c	Moscow	8	46	c	Strasb'rg	14	57	c
Barbados	28	82	f	Gibraltar	22	72	s	Munich	12	54	c	Sydney	18	64	c
Barcelona	17	63	f	Helsinki	12	54	d	N Delhi	29	84	s	Tangier	21	70	s
Beirut	27	81	s	Hong K	26	79	f	N York	15	59	f	Tel Aviv	28	82	f
Belgrade	21	70	s	Innsbruck	11	52	c	Nairobi	24	75	f	Tenerife	25	77	f
Berlin	16	61	s	Istanbul	17	63	f	Naples	22	72	c	Tokyo	15	59	r
Bermuda	25	77	f	Jeddah	35	95	s	Nice	14	57	f	Toronto	11	52	c
Biarritz	15	59	c	Jo'burg	27	81	s	Oslo	15	59	s	Tunis	20	68	c
Barda'x	17	63	f	L Angels	16	61	fg	Paris	16	61	s	Valencia	22	72	s
Brussels	15	59	s	L Palmas	24	75	f	Peking	23	73	s	Vanc'ver	9	48	s
Budapst	18	64	s	Le Touet	15	59	f	Perth	23	73	c	Venice	17	63	f
Cairo	28	82	f	Lisbon	22	72	s	Prague	14	57	f	Vienna	18	64	s
Cape Tn	16	61	s	Locarno	18	61	s	Reykjavik	5	41	r	Warsaw	15	59	s
Ch'church	X			Luxembg	14	57	c	Rhodes	24	75	s	Wash'ton	15	59	r
Chicago	9	48	r	Luxor	33	91	s	Rio de J	20	68	f	Wel'ngton	12	54	X
Cologne	16	61	s	Madrid	19	66	f	Riyadh	37	99	s	Zurich	11	52	d

Temperatures at midday local time on Tuesday X = not available

MOON TODAY



Changes to chart below from noon: low A pushes northeastwards, fills. Low H runs northeastwards, slowly fills. Low J edges northeastwards, fills. High E drifts eastwards with little change in pressure



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	0:02	6.4	12:19	6.4	Leith	0:50	5.1	1:13	5.1
Aberdeen	-	-	12:05	4.0	Liverpool	9:49	8.6	10:03	8.8
Avonmouth	5:30	12.0	5:48	12.4	Lowestoft	7:42	2.5	8:24	2.4
Belfast	9:53	3.2	9:54	3.4	Margate	10:26	4.4	10:59	4.4
Cardiff	5:12	10.4	5:33	10.8	Milford Haven	4:43	6.3	4.58	6.5
Devonport	4:07	5.0	4:21	5.2	Newquay	3:29	5.9	3:47	6.1
Dover	9:35	6.2	9:53	6.2	Oban	4:24	3.6	4:31	3.8
Dublin (N Wall)	10:16	3.8	10:25	3.9	Penzance	3:05	5.1	3:22	5.3
Falmouth	3:21	4.4	3:39	4.7	Portland	5:02	1.8	5:08	1.9
Greenock	11:31	3.2	11.22	3.3	Portsmouth	9:53	4.5	10:02	4.4
Harwich	10:12	3.8	10:41	3.8	Shoreham	9:43	5.8	9:56	5.8
Holyhead	8.52	5.1	9:04	5.3	Southampton	9:21	4.4	9:34	4.4
Hull (Albon D)	4:30	6.8	4:56	6.9	Swansea	4.47	8.7	5:04	9.0
Ilfracombe	4:25	8.6	4.41	8.8	Tees	1:58	4.9	2:25	4.9
King's Lynn	4:47	5.6	5:09	5.8	Walton-on-Naze	10:10	4.0	10:38	4.1

Crown copyright reserved All times GMT Heights in metres

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire, 17C (63F); lowest day max: Tulloch Bridge, Highland, 9C (48F); highest rainfall: Isle of Portland, Dorset, 0.43in; highest sunshine: Bournemouth, Dorset, 7.4hr.

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THE TIMES

2

INSIDE SECTION 2 TODAY



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The sheriff's a star: Chris Cooper in the week's best film
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TRAVEL
Tourist explosion as Icelandic volcano erupts
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SPORT
Hill prepares for decisive closing chapter of season
PAGES 42-48

TELEVISION AND RADIO
PAGES 46, 47

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook THURSDAY OCTOBER 10 1996

Call to disclose political gifts

BY JASON NISSÉ

INSTITUTIONAL investors are calling for full disclosure of US donations by British companies and, in some cases, for the decision to give donations to be put to a vote in the wake of yesterday's revelations by *The Times*.

Investigations in the US have unearthed $2.1 million of donations by FT-SE 100 companies to Bob Dole, the Republican candidate for the US presidency, and the Republican Party.

Total payments to American political causes were $3.35 million, more than twice the amount given to UK parties.

Most companies do not disclose the full extent of their US donations in their annual reports and do not put the matter to a vote.

The Association of British Insurers is now to press for all companies to fully disclose their donations in the US and other countries.

Richard Regan, investment director of the ABI, said: "Our membership think it is very important the political donations should be transparent."

The Prudential, one of the UK's largest institutional investors, is understood to want all political donations, whatever the country involved, to be put to a vote of shareholders.

The National Association of Pension Funds already requires companies to disclose all donations, which includes US payments, so some FT-SE 100 companies may be in breach of those guidelines.

Hermes, the Post Office and Telecom pension fund, opposes all donations to UK political parties, and is considering whether to extend this policy further.



Overbearing attitudes among officials, causing frustration and fear, are cited by Elizabeth Filkin, who says complaints are up by 27 per cent

Homes slowdown fuels Clarke stance on rates

BY JANET BUSH AND ANNE ASHWORTH

KENNETH CLARKE, the Chancellor, has continued to ignore the warnings from the Bank of England that interest rates should be raised.

Minutes from last month's monetary meeting published yesterday show the Chancellor arguing that prices data remained extremely good, that sterling had strengthened since the last meeting and that "there was certainly no sign of any housing market boom".

Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England said at the meeting that the longer a rate rise was delayed the sharper it would need to be. He said that growing domestic demand put the Government's inflation target at "significant risk". However, he said the short-term outlook for inflation remained favourable.

The publication of the minutes coincided with the publication of the Halifax Building Society's regional house price survey, which showed a year-on-year improvement in house prices in the third quarter of 5.4 per cent. However, during the three months to September, prices rose by just 0.8 per cent, a significant slowdown from the 2.2 per cent recorded in the second quarter.

This fall reflected declines in some areas, such as the West Midlands, and reinforced the Chancellor's scepticism about the existence of a housing boom. In yesterday's minutes, Mr Clarke expressed the view that price increases were concentrated in particular sections of the market where there were property shortages.

The Governor and the Chancellor mentioned the appreciation in the exchange rate as a positive factor controlling inflation in the near-term.

Jonathan Loynes of HSBC Markets noted that the pound's trade-weighted index had risen by 1.5 per cent since the September meeting, "allowing Mr Clarke to claim that Mr George has had the ¼-point monetary tightening he was after".

On balance, the City believes that it is becoming more likely that the Chancellor will get away with keeping base rates where they are right up until the election.

Looking to future trends in the housing market, Gary Marsh, assistant general manager at the Halifax, said that he believed the current wide gaps between price performance in different regions would not widen further.

According to the Halifax survey, prices continued to rise most rapidly in Greater London, where there has been a 10.1 per cent increase over the year. However, the pace of growth slowed in the third quarter to 1.1 per cent, against 3 per cent and 5.6 per cent in the two previous quarters, increases which the Halifax described as "unsustainable". The average price of a detached house in the capital is now £204,006.

The yearly rate of inflation in the South East was 5.8 per cent, but the quarter's increase of 1.1 per cent was again down on the figure for the previous quarters. Northern Ireland and Wales also performed well, with rises over the quarter of 1.1 per cent and 1.6 per cent. Since 1995, prices in Northern Ireland have soared by 18. 5 per cent, taking the average prices for a detached house to £87,271.

Elsewhere, the Halifax figures tell a different tale. In the West Midlands prices were down by 0.6 per cent and East Anglian properties were down 0.2 per cent. Prices held steady in Yorkshire and Humberside. In the North West, where prices fell badly last year, there has been a 3.6 per cent rise over the past 12 months and a 1.4 per cent rise during the quarter.

Pennington, page 27

Tax and Customs staff criticised

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

TAXMEN stand accused of "incompetence, insensitivity and indifference", while Customs officials are often overbearing and heavy-handed when questioning travellers, an independent watchdog body claims.

A report published yesterday into the way the Inland Revenue handles disputes with customers has officially confirmed what many taxpayers know already: that complaining to the tax office can be a frustrating, time-consuming and frightening business.

Taxpayers have faced huge bills, been caused unnecessary work, and suffered frustration and fear because of the Revenue's attitude, according to the independent financial adjudicator, Elizabeth Filkin.

In her third annual report, she has made unusually strong criticism of officials who failed to acknowledge their mistakes.

She revealed that the Inland Revenue, Customs and Excise and the Contributions Agency paid a total of £109,000 to 102 people who complained about their treatment this year. The largest payment was £28,490 after the Revenue improperly conducted an investigation of a small business.

Among those who suffered at the hands of officials was a man strip-searched by a Customs officer at an airport; and a man involved in the construction industry who was wrongly suspected of failing to declare all his income.

Ms Filkin revealed that 3,267 people complained to her office this year, 27 per cent up on the previous year. She took up 577 complaints for full investigation and found wholly or partly in favour of the complainant in half of the cases.

Some Customs and Excise staff acted in an overbearing way and routine procedures were operated in a heavy-handed manner, she said.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4009.3	(-26.3)
Yield	3.88%	
FTSE All share	1969.07	(-9.75)
Nikkei	20870.83	(-167.70)
New York:		
Dow Jones	5944.78	(-21.99)*
S&P Composite	698.39	(-2.25) *

US RATE

Federal Funds	5¼%*	(4¾%)
Long Bond	99¹¹₃₂*	(99¹⁰₃₂)
Yield	6.79%*	(6.80%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	5⁵⁹₃₂%	(5⁵⁷₃₂%)
Liffe long gilt future (Dec)	111¹₃₂	(110³₃₂)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.5643*	(1.5635)
London:		
$	1.5655	(1.5632)
DM	2.3913	(2.3872)
FFr	8.0833	(8.0684)
SFr	1.9595	(1.9541)
Yen	174.32	(173.95)
£ Index	87.1	(86.9)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.5290*	(1.5294)
FFr	5.1650*	(5.1670)
SFr	1.2530*	(1.2540)
Yen	111.49*	(111.60)
$ Index	97.4	(97.3)

Tokyo close Yen 111.45

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Dec) $24.05 ($24.15)

GOLD

London close $381.45 ($381.15)

* denotes midday trading price

Few tax cuts

The case for tax cuts in next month's Budget is weak, with any hope of returning the public finances to balance in the medium term dependent on unprecedentedly tight control of public spending, according to the budget published jointly yesterday by the Institute for Fiscal Studies and Goldman Sachs. Page 26

Inchcape sale

Inchcape has sold its Testing Services business to Charterhouse Development Capital for £380 million. The proceeds will go towards clearing Inchcape's £488 million borrowings. Page 27

Branson expands Virgin empire

BY FRASER NELSON

RICHARD BRANSON is expanding his Virgin empire into jeans and cosmetics via a joint venture with Victory Holdings, a start-up company that will float on the Alternative Investment Market next week for £110 million.

Victory will be the fifth largest company on AIM. It has raised £45 million from the placing — the largest new issue on the exchange. With Virgin, it will jointly own Jeans Co and Cosmetics Co, two separate companies scheduled to start trading by next Christmas.

Virgin will have a 10.6 per cent stake in Victory, worth £11.6 million, in exchange for the use of its logo. Rory McCarthy, Victory's chairman, has invested £3 million of his personal fortune for a 2.6 per cent stake. Mr McCarthy, a long-standing friend of Mr Branson, has been named as the third crew member of Virgin's round-the-world hot air balloon trip in December. He also runs McCarthy Corporation, a Toronto-listed conglomerate that plans to list on AIM later this year.

Mr McCarthy said: "We had a difficult job as a start-up because we had to buy our investors' imagination. The confidence they have shown gives some reflection of the strength of the Virgin brand."

Société Générale Strauss Turnbull has placed 72.4 million Victory shares at 58p each. They start trading next Thursday.

Tempus, page 28

Tottenham writes down squad value

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR, the quoted Premiership football club, will today reveal that it has written down the value of its playing squad by more than 40 per cent (Jason Nissé writes).

Alan Sugar, chairman, is expected to announce that the value of the squad is being cut by £6.8 million and the reduction will be written off against profits.

The move, which means that a team including England Euro 96 stars Darren Anderton and Teddy Sheringham is valued at just £9 million, has been prompted by the European Court ruling in the case of Jean-Marc Bosman, the Belgian footballer. The ruling means that players out of contract can move to another club within the European Community with no transfer fee payable.

Rover plant waits on £60m subsidy

BY OLIVER AUGUST

ROVER, the BMW subsidiary, is close to securing a government subsidy of around £60 million to build an engine plant in the Midlands.

The £500 million investment by the company would create 2,000 jobs which may otherwise go to Austria, where BMW already has a high-tech plant. The facility is to be built at Hams Hall between Coventry and Birmingham.

Rover is hoping to build 400,000 engines a year in Britain by the beginning of the next decade. But if the plant is not built because the subsidy is too small, Britain could lose all engine building capacity when current Rover plants are taken out of production.

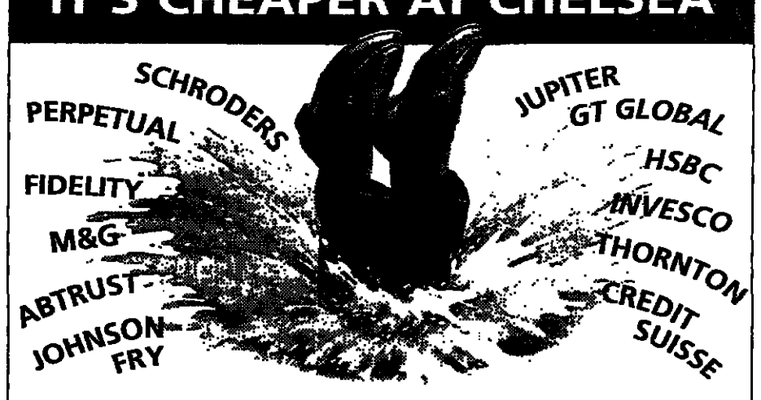
Walter Hasselkus, Rover's German chief executive, has met with Department of Trade and Industry officials. He said: "I am confident we will get it, but it has to be a subsidy that will make it commercially viable to build the plant."

The Austrian government is understood to be offering up to £70 million. Rover is resigned to the fact that the DTI grant will be smaller but said it will have to be relatively close to the Vienna figure.

Next week Rover faces difficult pay negotiations with the Transport and General Workers Union, which is demanding a 7 per cent wage increase. Mr Hasselkus said: "7 per cent is just not on. We are fighting to become profitable, and that excludes a 7 per cent increase."

Pennington, page 27

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Tebbit reveals evidence of age concern

BY JON ASHWORTH

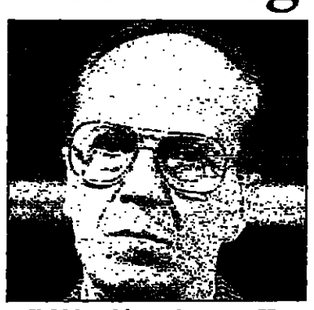
LORD TEBBIT, who once told the unemployed to get on their bikes and find work, admitted at the High Court in London yesterday that the odds were stacked against UK executives over the age of 55.

The former Conservative Party chairman had taken leave from the Conservative Party conference to give evidence in the case of John Clark, who was ousted as chief executive of BET, the business services group, after the takeover bid by Rentokil this year.

Pressed on the likelihood of Mr Clark securing another job, Lord Tebbit said: "It isn't fashionable these days to appoint chief executives who are in their upper 50s." Lord Tebbit was a non-executive director of BET until May, and chaired the company's remuneration committee.



Clark: seeks £6m compensation



Tebbit: odds against over-55s

Mr Clark says he will have serious difficulty in finding a new job, but BET argues that an executive of his standing should be able to secure another post and that he is bound to "mitigate his own loss" by seeking to do so. Andrew Hogarth, BET's counsel, who recalled that in the past Lord Tebbit had held himself out as "a bit of an expert on the ease with which you can obtain employment", suggested that Mr Clark would seem to be highly employable. Lord Tebbit replied: "He is 55 years old and unfortunately there is a cult of ageism in this country." He added: "I suffer myself, being 65."

Another barrier in Mr Clark's way was that many extremely able chief executives were not suitable for positions in other companies. "There are some very good square pegs and some very good round holes," he said.

Mr Clark, an American, helped to revive the fortunes of BET before it was acquired by Rentokil for £2.2 billion in April. He is claiming more than £6 million for loss of salary, pension rights, stock and share options, bonus payments, an executive car and chauffeur and health insurance. BET admits wrongful dismissal and agrees it must pay compensation but disputes the amounts. The case continues.

Goldcrest clear-up 'became cover-up'

A FORMER director of Goldcrest, the Brent Walker films and television subsidiary, has told a London court of his "distress" at the state of the company's accounts (Robert Miller writes).

Frederick Fisher told Southwark Crown Court yesterday that a massive cover-up, allegedly sanctioned by George Walker, former head of Brent Walker, reminded him of the Watergate scandal.

Mr Fisher added that he had spoken to Donald Anderson, the former finance director of Goldcrest, of his concerns. He said he was "distressed and breathtaken" by what he had heard from Mr Anderson, adding that the situation reminded him of former American president Richard Nixon's fall from office.

He also said that what appeared to start out as a "clearing-up exercise" had "gone beyond that to a cover-up".

The former Goldcrest director was giving evidence against Mr Anderson who has denied a single charge of attempting to pervert the course of justice between August 1989 and October 1990. The case continues.



Ann Gloag, director, and Brian Souter, chairman of Stagecoach, can now proceed with investment programme

Stagecoach completes purchase financing shake-up

BY PAUL DURMAN

STAGECOACH, the bus and train-operating company, has completed the innovative refinancing of its controversial acquisition of Porterbrook, the train-leasing company.

The company has parcelled up the rental income Porterbrook receives from leasing out its rolling stock into £545 million of debt securities. UBS, the investment bank, yesterday placed these securities, most of which carry a triple A rating, to a wide range of European investors. Keith Ballantine, an assistant director at UBS, said the placing had gone "extremely well indeed".

UBS believes the Porterbrook deal is the first UK acquisition financed by securitisation of the acquired assets. The securitisation fixes Stagecoach's interest costs at a reduced level and will throw up a £25 million surplus through early repayment of a £520 million bridging loan from UBS.

Keith Cochrane, Stagecoach finance director, said the £25 million surplus — more than was expected when the Porterbrook deal was announced at the end of July — would give a kick-start to the company's investment programme. Stagecoach intends to order 120 new trains, costing £90 million, for its South West Trains franchise.

The average cost of the £545 million of borrowings will be 7.4 per cent, after expenses. Mr Cochrane said Porterbrook had previously been paying about 8 per cent.

Although the debt will appear on Stagecoach's balance sheet, the company is not required to make up any shortfall in the interest payments made to bondholders should rental income prove insufficient because of the failure of any of the train-operating companies. In fact, 80 per cent of Porterbrook's revenues are guaranteed by the Government.

Stagecoach is still awaiting the Office of Fair Trading's verdict on the Porterbrook acquisition.

Tempus, page 28

Green Budget says case for £3bn tax cuts is weak

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE case for tax cuts in next month's Budget is weak, with any hope of returning the public finances to balance in the medium term relying on unprecedentedly tight control of public spending, according to the Green Budget published jointly yesterday by the Institute for Fiscal Studies and Goldman Sachs.

"Were such control to be achieved, tax reductions might be justifiable in the future," the report said. "To cut taxes now in the expectation of hitting these medium-term spending plans would be dangerous."

In spite of its warnings, the Green Budget believes Kenneth Clarke will cut taxes to the tune of £3 billion, with broadly the same amount being cut from nominal spending plans for the 1997-98 financial year.

Gavyn Davies, chief international economist at Goldman Sachs, said that this Budget would be extraordinarily similar to last year's. "It is not the tax-cutting Budget the right of the Conservative Party wants to see. It is realistically the smallest tax-cutting package the Chancellor can get away with in an election year," he said.

The report predicts that Mr Clarke will show the public sector borrowing requirement dropping to £21.7 billion in 1997-98 and to broad budget balance by 1999-2000, a path of deficit reduction that the authors judge would be broadly acceptable. The PSBR for the current fiscal year is expected to be £26.2 billion, well above the £22.4 billion assumed in the last Budget.

Mr Davies said that modest tax cuts and matching spending cuts would aim to make the fiscal situation no worse. "This is quite a brave thing for Ken Clarke to do but he shouldn't be cutting taxes at all," he said.

The Green Budget makes it clear that tax cuts — even small ones — would be inappropriate at a time when consumer spending is expected to be boosted by £18 billion of windfall gains from building society mergers, for example. The report also noted that the most likely source of spending cuts would be in capital investment. Thus, there would be an unwelcome shift away from investment and towards the consumer.

The report concludes that it will not be too difficult to contain public spending in the short-term. But in the longer-term there are real concerns about maintaining control on spending — without services such as health and education suffering.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.07	1.91
Austria Sch	17.79	16.29
Belgium Fr	52.09	47.79
Canada $	2.222	2.062
Cyprus Cyp£	0.761	0.708
Denmark Kr	9.72	8.92
Finland Mkk	7.70	7.05
France Fr	8.48	7.81
Germany Dm	2.54	2.33
Greece Dr	380	365
Hong Kong $	12.72	11.72
Iceland	116	95
Ireland Pt	1.03	0.95
Israel Shk	5.37	4.72
Italy Lira	2478	2323
Japan Yen	188.20	172.20
Malta	0.605	0.550
Netherlds Gld	2.830	2.600
New Zealand $	2.41	2.19
Norway Kr	10.70	9.90
Portugal Esc	253.00	234.50
S Africa Rd	7.67	6.97
Spain Pta	207.00	194.00
Sweden Kr	10.70	9.90
Switzerland Fr	2.09	1.90
Turkey Lira	148450	140450
USA $	1.661	1.531

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

British Energy to shed 1,460 jobs

BY ERIC REGULY

BRITISH ENERGY, the privatised nuclear-power generator, confirmed plans to shed 1,460 employees, almost 30 per cent of the workforce, over the next three years in an effort to cut annual costs by £50 million.

The unions called the job losses "a kick in the face" but expressed relief that no power stations or main offices would be closed.

About 1,200 of the jobs will disappear at Nuclear Electric, the larger English division, with six stations. Scottish Nuclear, with two stations, will see 260 job losses. British Energy said it did not expect any compulsory redundancies but would not rule them out.

The redundancy programme will result in the loss of 35 per cent of British Energy's office support staff, and 19 per cent of the stations' staff. A £100 million redundancy charge will be taken over three years.

The Nuclear Installations Inspectorate said it will review the job cuts and block them if it determines they would compromise safety standards. The Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union said it would ask Nuclear Electric to justify every job reduction.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Tunnel shares fall on debt deal fears

SHARES of Eurotunnel fell yesterday, touching a low of 89p, as doubts about the company's debt-restructuring deal with its banks prompted heavy selling in both London and Paris. A total of 2.48 million shares were traded in London, where the stock ended the day at 93½p, down 11½p. The shares resumed trading on Monday after being suspended while the company negotiated the refinancing of £8.7 billion of debt.

UBS, the broker, reiterated its sell stance, warning that the tunnel operator would continue to be substantially cash-negative well into the next decade. Richard Hannah, the UBS analyst, said he believed the shares "are seriously overvalued." He said: "The swap of debt to equity doesn't really look big enough to be a proper long-term refinancing." UBS calculates that the total net present value of the cash stream from Eurotunnel's remaining 52-year tunnel-operating concession at below £6 billion, well short of the remaining debt after the deal. The restructuring deal has still to be approved by Eurotunnel shareholders and also has to be ratified by the 225 members of the banking syndicate.

Sony's new film team

SONY CORPORATION has appointed a new management team at its Hollywood film subsidiary in an attempt to staunch the multibillion-dollar losses and executive turmoil that have plagued the company. John Calley, head of United Artists and a respected Hollywood veteran, has joined Sony Pictures as president and chief executive. He has produced several hit films such as *Birdcage* and *Goldeneye*, the latest James Bond. Mr Calley replaces Alan Levine, who resigned last week. At 66 he will be widely regarded as an interim manager.

Allders EGM vote call

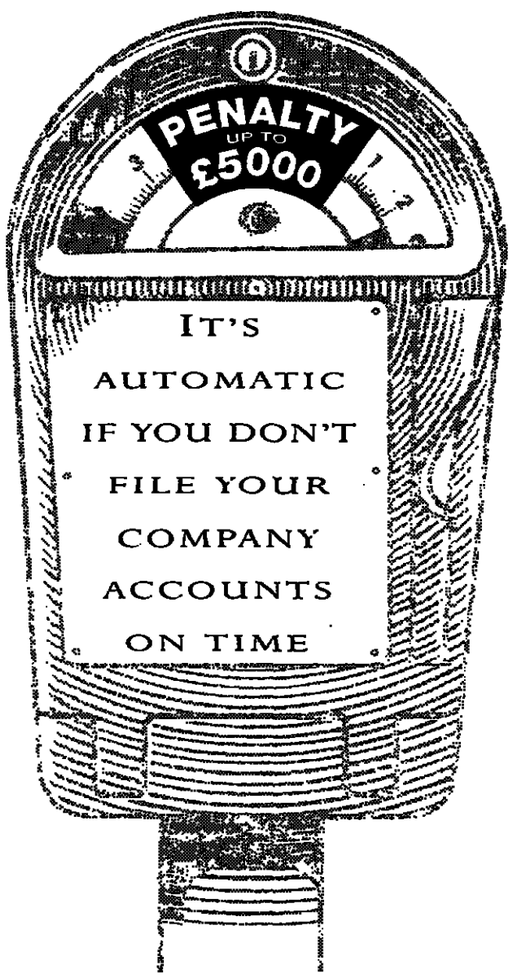
ALLDERS, the department stores operator, is advising shareholders to vote against resolutions relating to a share capital consolidation at today's extraordinary meeting. Instead, the Allders board intends to propose the payment of a special dividend of 46p a share, as a second interim dividend, at a cost of about £50 million. The recommendation follows Tuesday's statement by Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, proposing a crackdown on tax breaks for special dividends. The shares rose 2½p to 158p yesterday.

News Corp Web site

THE News Corporation, owner of *The Times*, yesterday announced the launch of the News Corp site on the Internet. The address is http://www.newscorp.com and the site consists of an interactive version of the 1996 News Corp annual report. Visitors to the site will be able to download audio and video clip examples of various News Corp products. The site also provides for direct links to the Internet sites of News Corp companies. In the near future the site will be expanded to include press releases and investor information.

Equitas appointment

SIR BRYAN NICHOLSON, former president of the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), has been appointed a non-executive director of Equitas, the company set up to reinsure Lloyd's of London losses for 1992 and prior years. He is joined on the board by Michael Deeny, the veteran Lloyd's campaigner, who steps down as an external member of the Council of Lloyd's next March. In two further non-executive appointments, Richard Spooner and Stephen Catlin both join the Equitas board.



If you're a director of a limited company, you should know that you only have a certain amount of time from your Accounting Reference Date to deliver your accounts to Companies House.

But what you may not realise is that if you deliver your accounts late your company will be penalised – automatically. Delay too long and the penalty could be as much as £1000 for private limited companies and £5000 for PLC's.

What's more, ensuring that your accounts are delivered on time is the personal responsibility of the company's directors. Not just your finance director. And certainly not your accountant.

Filing on time makes sound business sense. Other companies may soon lose confidence in yours if your records aren't up to date.

Examples of some deadlines for existing private limited companies are shown below

Company Accounting Reference Date	Deadline for delivery to Companies House (Private Companies)
01 December 1995	01 October 1996
01 January 1996	01 November 1996
29 February 1996	29 December 1996

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CHANGING TIMES

☐ Clarke and Halifax in accord ☐ Lloyds bid inches nearer ☐ Ginger group threatens the Norwich

Playing safe with houses

☐ DON'T say it too loud in today's overheated housing market or you could start a stampede, but we might have found an honest estate agent. The Halifax says that far from a housing boom, what we have is a mild recovery. How fortuitous that this coincided with a similar line from Kenneth Clarke.

And how telling that the Chancellor's views are no more, and possibly less, reliable than those of an estate agent. The Halifax could well have run out another of those ra-ra, buy-now-or-regret-it-forever notes we saw in the spring, when a profession that had heralded several false dawns saw a glint of the real thing. Instead it provided a more measured response suggesting a gradual improvement, off the peaks achieved in the summer and limited to areas where people actually want to live and where there is an under-supply of available homes.

The builders, much of whose product is situated in the wrong areas because these are the only places they can buy developable land, have been saying this for months; this autumn's reporting season for the industry was not noted for its bullishness.

Whereas Eddie George talked of continuing steady housing market recovery, a consequent spill-over into higher consumer spending and a rumbler that was half full, the Chancellor could see only a half-empty glass. The truth is that any gradual increase in house prices encourages people to put their homes on the market, so damping down prices again as supply matches demand. Expect, therefore, a series of slow, staggered price increases.

This is probably all to the good. Mr Clarke has his own reason to talk the market down: sharply higher house prices would put upwards pressure on interest rates. Neither he nor the homeowner want that; there is no point in the value of your property rocketing if you face eviction because you cannot pay the mortgage. You can have negative equity and cheap mortgages; you can have soaring house prices and pay the cost.

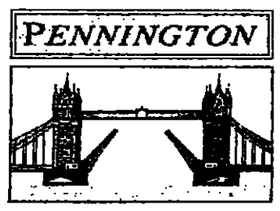
Keep taking the tablets

☐ THE endlessly deferred bids for Lloyds Chemists have become the stock market's longest-running production. Whenever the curtain threatens to fall, there is always one more act to follow. It is now nine months since Gehe, of Germany, and UniChem first bid for Lloyds, the country's biggest chain of retail chemists after Boots, and the drama is fast becoming a farce.

At least one player has already left the stage. The wife of Allen Lloyd, founder and chairman, sold out in May at 450p a share, well below the market price. She may have lost out, given the respective performance of the shares and the market, but she has bought some peace of mind.

The bids were duly referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. In July Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, said they should be blocked, unless the two bidders were prepared to sell off odd bits. So far, so orthodox — it is normal policy to forbid a merger unless the parties are prepared to make it slightly less attractive, *vide* Bass's purchase of Carlsberg-Tetley now jumping through the same hoop.

But the conditions put on Gehe and UniChem were so slight that it is hard to see how they justify the three-month delay while they



were agreed with the Office of Fair Trading. The Germans were to sell seven wholesale depots, the British six. UniChem would probably have sold or closed these anyway; the two were hardly being required to saw off their right arms, and agreement in principle was swift. They were each required to submit a list of potential buyers — nothing binding, of course; as neither owned the business, they could hardly promise a sale — by next Friday.

The two lists went to the OFT a couple of weeks ago. End of debate, one would have thought. But the October 18 deadline must roll round in all its awful majesty and Mr Lang must then give his decision. How long that will take, none can say. The significance is the effect on Lloyds' business of nine months of uncertainty and counting. Lloyds has issued a warning on trading, and yesterday's figures contained further indications of damage from the delay. Some scepticism is appropriate; the temptation must have been to blame every setback on the competition authorities.

Meawhile, Gehe has indicated that it thinks that Lloyds is now worth less than it initially bid. Again, some scepticism is due. UniChem's pronouncements have been more vague, but it seems to regard the benefits of merging Lloyds with its existing business as so attractive that the wait is worth the candle.

But the renewed offers, if they come, are not expected to be at much higher than the current market price, or around the £5 level at which they were pitched at the start of the year. The FT-SE 100 index has risen by 7 per cent since the bids were referred. Lloyds shareholders have missed out on this, and all for a few barely profitable pharmaceutical depots no one seems to much want anyway. Truly do the mills of the competition authorities grind small — and exceedingly slowly.

State of the Union

☐ ON THE basis that you can never please everyone all the time, the formation of a ginger group to chivvy the Norwich Union as it heads for flotation was inevitable. The complaints are coming from those "unlucky" enough to have policies that mature between October 1, when the insurer confirmed it was to go public, and the vote on this next spring.

The claim is that these individuals are losing out. Once their policies mature, they cease to be members of Norwich Union and their voting rights evaporate. They will, therefore, be ineligible for the windfall free shares promised to those who will vote. Yet the Norwich is doing its best to compensate them for any unfairness, real or supposed. They will gain a bonus of an extra 3 per cent on the value of those policies at maturity. If they wish to sell those policies beforehand, the buyer gets the bonus, so this is reflected in the price they receive.

The Norwich is moving fast towards a stock market quote to limit the number of such hard cases. But there will always be some who lose out because of the timing of any announcement. This may be bad luck, but it is not unfair.

Norwich members are receiving those free shares to compensate them for losing their vote, and a say in the insurer's future. It follows that those who have or will have lost that right before the vote do not need compensating. If the ginger group complains too vociferously, the true owners of the cash promised to keep them sweet, the members as a whole, may have something to say.

Floating vote

☐ MINISTERS may, at last, have struck a hard bargain with inward investors, and delegates at Bournemouth this week should approve. On Tuesday it was £150 million for 2,000 jobs in Fife; yesterday it was £60 million for the same number between Coventry and Birmingham. Not only is the cost per job falling, there is still the odd undecided voter left in the Midlands.

Inchcape sells off testing business to Charterhouse

By Paul Durman

INCHCAPE has sold its Testing Services business to Charterhouse Development Capital for about £380 million.

Proceeds from the sale will go towards clearing the £488 million of borrowings at Inchcape, the recently troubled motor distribution group that is offloading the testing business as part of its recovery strategy.

Testing Services, which tests petroleum and electrical equipment, has been one of Inchcape's best performers, recently reporting a 37 per cent rise in first-half operating profits to £15.7 million. The management of Testing Services, headed by Richard Nelson, 53, is putting up more than £1 million for a stake of up to 16 per cent.

Charterhouse believes that it will be possible to float the business on the stock market within the next three years.

Charterhouse scored a hugely profitable coup for its backers this year when it sold Porterbrook, the train-leasing company, to Stagecoach, the bus company, for £825 million. This was nearly £300 million more than a Charterhouse-backed management buyout paid for Porterbrook at the end of last year.

Stuart Simpson, a director of Charterhouse Development Capital, said that the scale of returns made on Porterbrook "only come round once in a lifetime". However, he added that Charterhouse had a great deal of confidence in Mr Nelson and hoped to do well once again.

Charterhouse, which has worked closely with Bankers Trust, will provide £90 million of equity, while another £50 million will come from a special form of preference shares.

Bankers Trust is arranging a £120 million issue of high-yielding bonds in America and will also underwrite £140 million of senior debt.

Mr Nelson's small head office team will shortly move to new offices in Savile Row. The company will change its name in a few months' time.

The sale was delayed by the company's complexity. It consists of 140 separate subsidiaries operating in more than 80 countries. The business employs 7,000 people. Its laboratories also test commodities, minerals and environmental standards.

Inchcape will make an exceptional profit of £180 million on the sale. It expects to receive its money early next month. The price paid by Charterhouse includes repayment of inter-company debts.

Mr Cushing said that the size of Testing Services in a specialist field meant there were very few possible trade buyers. He added that the price achieved was substantially above estimates made when the business was first put up for sale in March.

Inchcape, which was advised by Crédit Suisse First Boston, is still working on the likely demerger of Bain Hogg, its insurance broking arm.

DES JENSON



Smart work: Chris Thompson, left, Austin Reed managing director, and Colin Evans, chairman, have lifted the dividend

BT suffers setback to Telekom ambitions

By Eric Reguly

BRITISH Telecom's plans to become Deutsche Telekom's main rival in Germany suffered a blow yesterday when one of its potential partners defected to the rival Cable and Wireless camp.

RWE, a large German utility, said that it ended negotiations to become the third partner in Viag Interkom, the alliance formed by BT and Viag, the German industrial group, because of disagreements over the best way to attack the market when it is deregulated in 1998.

RWE has now agreed in principle to join forces with Vebacom, the telecoms alliance formed by C&W and Veba, Germany's fourth-largest company. Stephen Pettit, executive director of C&W's European business, said that the recruitment of RWE gives C&W a clear advantage in Germany. Europe's richest telecoms market. "BT has lost a major partner, which had telecoms assets and cash," he said.

RWE has 4,300km of fibre-optic cable that could form the backbone of an alternative telecoms. It has also agreed to contribute DM2.5 billion to a restructured German telecoms group in which C&W will have a 22.5 per cent effective ownership. C&W will receive DM450 million back from the group because its ownership has been diluted somewhat by the arrival of RWE.

BT will look for another German partner and said that it and Viag still intend to bid for Germany's fourth mobile-phone licence this month.

BT shares lost 7½p. to 348½p; C&W closed at 430p, down 4p.

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NBI earnings hit by defections

By Jon Ashworth

DEFECTIONS have begun to take their toll of Norman Broadbent International (NBI), the executive search firm. Income from headhunting assignments fell by 27 per cent in the first half of 1996, and the decline is expected to continue.

The slide in earnings emerged as NBI's parent, BNB Resources, reported pre-tax profits 33 per cent higher, at £2.35 million, in the six months to end-June. The figures were boosted by the acquisition of Goodman Graham, an information technology specialist. Fully diluted earnings per share were 6.3p (5.1p). There is an interim dividend of 2.4p (2p).

David Norman, chairman of BNB, said that NBI remained an important contributor to group profits. Defections began in February, when NBI's co-founder, Miles Broadbent, left to set up his own agency. Julian Sainty, Christopher Beatson-Hird and Ralph Grayson left in March to form a rival financial services practice. Under a lock-in clause, they are required to pay 50 per cent of their earnings to NBI in the first 12 months.

NBI's offices in New York and Hong Kong have also suffered defections. Mr Norman said: "NBI continues to provide a top-class service to quality clients, but as the team is smaller than it has been, profits in the second half are unlikely to match those of the first half. Rebuilding NBI to previous levels of profitability may take longer than earlier envisaged."

Mr Norman added that any shortfall from NBI was likely to be more than offset by contributions from other parts of the group.

Austin Reed sews up 65% profit rise

THE RETURN of consumer confidence and a renewed commitment to classic women's tailoring have put Austin Reed, the clothing retailer, back on track. The company reported pre-tax profits up 65 per cent to £2.3 million for the six months to August 10 (Sarah Cunningham writes).

A misjudged foray into more casual women's wear last year led to a sharp drop in 1995 profits to £3.4 million from £5.8 million a year earlier.

The company said like-for-like sales were now ahead 8 per cent. Earnings rose 63 per cent to 4.9p a share and the dividend has been increased from 2p to 2.25p.

Tempus, page 28

Lloyds Chemists counts the cost of long bid battle

By Sarah Cunningham

LLOYDS CHEMISTS yesterday blamed the uncertainty and costs associated with the long-running struggle for control of the group for a drop in full-year profits. It reported a pre-tax profit of £47 million for the 12 months to June 30, down from £55.6 million a year ago (See Pennington this page).

The company has been at the centre of a bid battle for nearly nine months, and yesterday's drop in profits led to speculation that it has now lost some value to its predators. Analysts said bidders were unlikely to offer a premium to the current share price. At 497p it is just 3p below the original offer from Gehe, the German company, but they still expect both Gehe and UniChem to come back with fresh bids.

A cash-and-share bid by UniChem and an all-cash bid by Gehe made early this year were referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. In July the Department of Trade and Industry said that for both companies to rebid they had to find buyers willing to make offers in principle for most of the Lloyds wholesaling business.

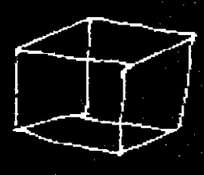
Lloyds yesterday said that UniChem and Gehe are in talks with the Office of Fair Trading about "numerous offers from prospective purchasers". Lloyds expects "the terms of the necessary undertakings by Unichem and Gehe to be finalised by October 18", the DTI's deadline. Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, will then decide whether the companies may rebid.

Michael Ward, managing director of Lloyds, said the pharmaceutical wholesaling division has been worst hit. "Some customers have asked for different terms, or have gone. And for staff ... if they've been able to find alternative employment, they have left," he said.

Lloyds has maintained its final dividend at 7.3p, payable on December 4. The full-year dividend rises to 10.4p (10.2p).

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STOCK MARKET  MICHAEL CLARK

Wall Street helps to end London's winning ways

THE London stock market's recent record breaking appears to have run its course with prices sharply lower across the board.

Opening falls on Wall Street added to London's problems, but the FT-SE 100 index held above the 4,000 mark, partly supported by a strong gilt market. It ended the session 26.3 points down at 4,009.3 with at least one leading securities house talking of a major correction within the next few days.

Investors were unsettled by reports earlier in the day that Boris Yeltsin had died. The reports were later denied. Even so, selling pressure appeared light and turnover generally was on the thin side.

Among leaders **BT** retreated 7½p at 348½ after confirming that its talks with RWE and Viag about forming an alliance to develop both fixed and mobile telecoms in the German market had ended in failure. Instead RWE is now expected to link up with Veba and BT's rival, **Cable and Wireless**. C&W slipped 4p to 430p.

Several large lines of stock went through on the delayed ticker. They included two million **TI Group** at 559p as the price reacted with a fall of 5p at 564½p and 325,000 **GKN** at £11.38, leaving the price 22½p cheaper at £11.32½.

Reuters clawed back some of Tuesday's losses suffered after the Chancellor of the Exchequer said he would scrap tax relief on share buybacks and special dividends. Shareholders yesterday voted to adjourn an extraordinary meeting to consider resolutions relating to special dividend payments worth £613 million. The special dividend would have been worth 750p over three years.

W H Smith was quick to deny claims that plans to sell its business stationery arm to the French group Guilbert had run into a wall. Suggestions that the two had fallen out over the £142 million price tag was quickly dismissed. The disposal would effectively wipe out Smiths' debts. The shares lost 10p at 455½p.

Elsewhere among retailers **Blacks Leisure** stood out with an improvement of 14½p at 273½p on talk of a profits upgrading by MeesPierson.

A better than expected increase in profits at the half-way stage lifted **Austin Reed** 5p to 219½p. Pre-tax profits were up from £1.38 million to £2.28 million with brokers now forecasting almost £6 million for the year. The group attributed the performance to a recovery in women's wear and an improvement in its manufacturing division.

Support for **Eurotunnel** began to evaporate with the price losing 11½p at 93p as investors absorbed details of the proposed debt-for-equity swap. The deal is a complicated one and likely to result in heavy dilution of existing shareholders' stakes.

The rise in petrol prices on the back of a firmer crude oil price has been good news for **Frost Group**, the petrol retailer, which advanced another 7½p to 130p. The rise in petrol prices means an easing of the price war which has been taking its toll on margins. Four recent price rises have all held with volumes recovering strongly in August and September. The group announced that Vasant Bhuva, finance director, has resigned.

Incepta, the advertising and marketing group, celebrated a return to the black with a ¼p rise to 2¼p. Pre-tax profits at £1.07 million compared with a deficit of £304,000 for the corresponding period, but it is unlikely the group will be able to sanction a return to the dividend list until next year.

A return to the black and the dividend list boosted **Eurovein** 14p to 67½p, while bullish comments about current trading were good for **System Integrated Research**, 2½p firmer at 57p.

Further reflection of Tuesday's profits warning left **On Demand Information** another 20p lower at 90p and **Country Casuals** dropped 19p to 136½p as it continued to trade in the red.

Confirmation of the disposal of **Inchcape's** testing services unit was greeted with a jump of 8p to 276p. The business has been sold to Charterhouse Development Corporation for £380 million and an exceptional profit of £180 million is likely.

Silentnight was also rewarded with a leap of 20p to 275p after reporting better than expected first-half results and **Finelist** firmed 1p to 314p½ after the automotive group reported an encouraging start to the year. Chris Swan, chairman, told shareholders at the annual meeting that targets were being achieved on all fronts despite fierce competition.

Mountview Estates, the property developer, held steady at £13 as **Bradford Property Trust** snapped up a near 10 per cent stake. Bradford, 1p easier at 241½p, made its move after the sale of a 4.6 per cent stake in the company by **TR Property Investment Trust**, unchanged at 341½p.

Burtonwood continued to power ahead with the price 41½p higher at yet another new high of 189½p. With market-makers only prepared to trade in parcels of 5,000 shares at a time it does not take many buyers to get the price moving.

☐ **GILT-EDGED**: The equity market may have been in free-fall but bond prices continued from strength to strength. Prices closed below their best on profit-taking but were still showing healthy gains overall. Most of the demand was aimed at the longer end, producing a further flattening of the yield curve.

Business in the futures pit was described as brisk with a total of 117,000 contracts completed as the December series of the long gilt finished £¹¹₃₂ higher at £111³₃₂.

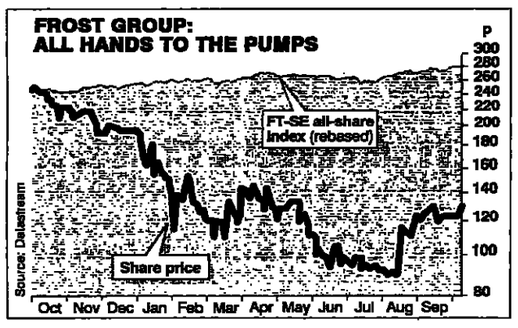
In longs benchmark Treasury 8 per cent 2015 put on £⁵₁₆ at £102²⁷₃₂, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 rose £³₁₆ to £104²⁵₃₂.

☐ **NEW YORK**: On Wall Street shares fell as concern over Russian President Boris Yeltsin's health led to a sell-off in bonds. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 21.99 points lower at 5,944.78.



Loss of a phones deal with Germany saw BT shares slip 7½p

A renewed burst of speculative buying lifted Leigh Interests, the waste disposal group, 5½p to 126½p, just 4p short of its high for the year. Once again there is talk of a bid soon from Severn Trent, which speculators say may be prepared to offer 155p a share. This would price Leigh at almost £102 million.



MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 5944.78 (-21.99)
S&P Composite 698.39 (+2.25)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 20870.83 (-167.70)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 12250.57 (+143.81)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index 587.84 (-1.31)

Sydney:
AO 2310.7 (-21.0)

Frankfurt:
DAX 2702.99 (+11.82)

Singapore:
Straits 2135.46 (+19.42)

Brussels:
General 9830.01 (-35.94)

Paris:
CAC-40 2146.71 (-14.83)

Zurich:
SKA Gen 794.00 (-2.70)

London:

FT 30	2835.2 (-14.0)
FT 100	4009.3 (-26.3)
FTSE Mid 250	4431.3 (-4.0)
FTSE 350	1995.4 (-10.7)
FTSE Eurotrack 100	1768.10 (+5.41)
FT All-Share	1969.07 (-9.75)
FT Non Financials	2063.69 (-13.08)
FT Fixed Interest	116.45 (+0.18)
FT Govt Secs	95.10 (+0.20)
Bargains	40997
SEAQ Volume	645.7m
USM (Datastrm)	202.80 (+0.04)
US$	1.5645 (+0.0014)
German Mark	2.3909 (+0.0047)
Exchange Index	87.1 (+0.2)

Bank of England official close (4pm)

£:ECU	1.2465
£:SDR	1.4408
RPI	153.1 Aug (2.1%) Jun 1987=100
RPIX	152.6 Aug (2.8%) Jun 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

AEA Technology	336½	...
Airtech	70½	- 4
Amer Opps U Ln	95	...
Brunner Mond	170½	...
Cruden Bay	85	...
Deltron Electrn (150)	165½	- 2
Elec Retail Sys	197½	...
Eurasia Mining	315	...
Grosvenor Land	15¼	...
Hartstone 8% Cv	120½	...
Imperial Tobacco	405½	- 6½
Interoute Tele	172½	- 2
Mears Group	11¼	...
Oriental Resturnts	209½	...
Personal Number	84½	...
Polydoc	69½	...
Shallbane	137½	...
Thistle Hotels	173½	...
Ultra Electronics	290½	...
Weeks Group	7¼	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Davis Fin ULS n/p	56½	...
Fll Group n/p (105)	2	...
Grampian n/p (125)	2	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Silentnight	275p (+20p)
Andrews Sykes	455p (+20p)
CMG	770p (+30p)
Inchcape	276p (+8p)
Bodycote	687½p (+17½p)
Micro Focus	842½p (+17½p)
Delphi	550p (+17½p)
Bemrose	406p (+25½p)

FALLS:

Danka Bs Sys	627½p (-35p)
Caird Gp	642½p (-25p)
REXAM	373p (-12p)
Glaxo Wellcome	990p (-31p)
Chiroscience	381½p (-11p)
Matthew Clark	339p (-9½p)
WH Smith	455½p (-9½p)
SmithKline	800p (-15½p)
British Airways	581p (-11p)
BP	688½p (-11p)
Stagecoach	569½p (-8p)
Laporte	714p (-9½p)
Siebe	970½p (-15p)

Closing Prices Page 31

TEMPUS

Auf Wiedersehen BT

BRITISH TELECOM is being disingenuous in downplaying the loss of RWE from its German partnership with Viag. In the spring, BT and Cable and Wireless were debating which of their German alliances would be sacrificed in order to bring about a merger of the two UK companies. At the time, BT and Viag said that their alliance with RWE had precedence over any other solution.

Whether BT said *Auf Wiedersehen* to RWE, or vice versa, is irrelevant. RWE's defection to the C&W camp is a blow to BT's effort to become Deutsche Telekom's main rival. Vebacom, C&W's alliance with Veba, Germany's fourth largest industrial company, is already better established than BT's venture. With the help of RWE, Cable and Wireless is even better placed to take on the market leader. RWE brings with it 4,300 kms of fibre-optic cable, the backbone of a telecoms network in Germany and considerable financial and political clout. Vebacom already boasts a public telephony business, three cable investments with 1.2 million customers and a clutch of mobile-phone interests.

BT and Viag are not out of the running. They are looking for a new partner and intend to bid for Germany's fourth mobile-phone licence, but their's is now a catch-up game and time is running out: the entire German market becomes a free-for-all in 1998.

However, the defection of RWE could work in BT's favour if the two rivals take another shot at merging. Their indecision over Germany was cited as a principal reason for the breakdown of the merger talks. C&W's new German strength has removed that particular obstacle.

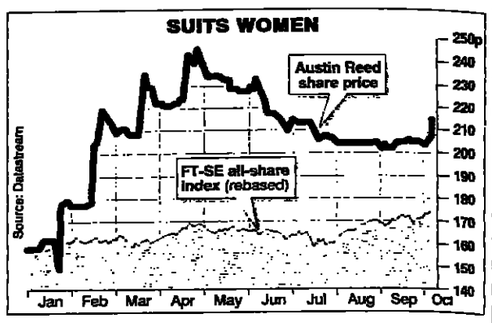
Austin Reed

GOOD sales figures from Austin Reed were no surprise given the steady stream of upbeat news from the high street. But after last year's disastrous performance in women's wear, a £2.3 million interim pre-tax profit was an unexpected treat.

Last year the company shifted its range away from the traditional women's suits for which it is best known and into casual clothes. It has now backtracked and women's wear is again selling well.

This could open up interesting possibilities for Austin Reed. So far, women's wear accounts for only 20 per cent of sales, but if the recovery continues, the retailer could allocate more space. Fickle fashion makes women's clothing more risky than staid menswear, but business clothing is probably the least volatile sector of women's wear. Austin Reed occupies a price bracket (above Marks & Spencer but cheaper than Jaeger) that is not particularly well-served. That offers the company the opportunity to exploit a gap in the market.

Better than expected interim results make a takeover, much-rumoured in the spring, far less likely and so there will be fewer speculative jumps in the share price. The prospect of a pre-tax profit for the full year of £5.8 million puts Austin Reed on a forward p/e of 17.8 times, a 6 per cent discount to the sector rating. That looks like reasonable value on a long-term view.



Victory

QUESTION: How do you turn £44 million into £110 million overnight? Answer: you stick the Virgin brand name all over the company.

In a nutshell, that is what the backers of Victory Corporation want you to believe. Victory is essentially a new stock market vehicle for Richard Branson but instead of airplanes or music, investors get a piece of two, as yet, non-existent businesses: Virgin blue jeans and Virgin cosmetics. However Mr Branson's Virgin Group is not putting money into the company, just the right to place the name on the products.

Most of the money is coming from the public — some £41 million — bar £3 million from Rory McCarthy, a chum of Branson and a fellow balloonist. But with 10 per cent of Victory, plus 50 per cent of Cosmetics Co and 30 per cent of Jeans Co controlled by Virgin, outside shareholders will have a small voice. Add McCarthy's interests to those of Virgin and the public owns only a quarter of the group.

Extravagant projections suggest Virgin will storm the blue jean and cosmetics market. Victory hopes to achieve some 6 per cent of the jean market but there is the little matter of Levi Strauss, while cosmetics has Body Shop to contend with. Investors who don't share the Branson passion for going up in balloons should stear clear.

Stagecoach

ON ANY measure, Stagecoach has done well in its securitisation of the Porterbrook rental stream. Few companies would be able to borrow five-year money, non-recourse at a fixed rate of 7.4 per cent, not to mention a fast-moving highly acquisitive vehicle such as Stagecoach.

The long-term funding market is excited about prospects for deals in the privatised rail industry. Certain of the attractions are obvious: a large part of the income of the rolling stock companies is guaranteed by the Government, via the train operating companies who are the ROSCO's customers. HM Treasury's guarantee on a lease — whether for a train or a building — renders the income stream as good as risk-free, hence the triple A rating on the floating rate notes.

More interesting is the achievement of triple-A on part of the non-guaranteed rental streams. Instead of spending money on financial guaranty insurance, Stagecoach has opted to offer the buyers of the notes more security than they need. Thus for every £1 of rental income encumbered, Porterbrook is getting 80p from the sale of the notes but it also leaves the company some 20p of free cashflow.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Dec	978-977	Mar	1070-1068
Mar	1006-1004	May	1076-1075
May	1020-1018	Jul	1090-1080
Jul	1034-1032	Sep	1105-1040
Sep	1046-1043		
Dec	1058 SLR		Volume: 3668

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Nov	1550-1548	Jul	1435-1430
Jan	1490-1489	Sep	1430-1415
Mar	1456-1455	Nov	1450-1420
May	1438-1437		Volume: 3979

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Aug	322.4-21.0
Spot: 330.0		Oct	314.9-13.5
Dec	322.0-21.5	Dec	317.9-15.6
Mar	319.5-19.0	Mar	320.0-18.5
May	319.9-19.0		Volume: 3586

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on October 8

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB	102.94	97.60	93.62
(+/-)	+2.67	+10.93	+0.48
Eng/Wales:	102.65	113.04	92.84
(+/-)	-2.92	-1.43	+0.24
(%)	-7.0	+8.0	+8.0
Scotland:	106.23	112.19	96.48
(+/-)	+0.12	+0.93	+1.51
(%)	+34.0	+4.0	-1.0

Series	Nov	Jan	Apr	Nov	Jan	Apr
BAT Ind	420	26½	34	42½	9	13½
(*434)	460	8	15½	23½	31	34
Vodafone	220	12	15	22	5	9
(*225½)	240	3½	6½	13	16½	20½
Series	Nov	Feb	May	Nov	Feb	May
Grnd Met	460	28	35½	43½	4½	15½
(*480½)	500	6½	15½	24	23½	32
Ladbroke	200	10	16	20	4	7
(*208)	220	1½	6½	10½	15½	18
Utd Bisc	200	14½	22	26½	1½	5
(*212)	220	3	11	14	10	14

October 9, 1996 Tot: 50391 Call: 19634 Put: 30757 FTSE Call: 3608 Put: 7212
*Underlying security price.

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	24.65	+0.20
Brent 15 day (Nov)	24.55	+0.20
Brent 15 day (Dec)	24.05	+0.20
W Texas Intermediate (Nov)	25.40	+0.10
W Texas Intermediate (Dec)	24.95	+0.10

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	224 (+6)	226 (+6)
Gasoil EEC	248 (-2)	250 (-2)
3.5 Fuel Oil	120 (n/c)	121 (n/c)
Naphtha	228 (+3)	230 (+3)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Oct	245.50-45.75	Jan	221.00-21.75
Nov	238.00-38.50	Feb	212.00 SLR
Dec	n/a		Vol: 24529

BRENT (6.00pm)

Nov	24.52-24.56	Feb	22.60-22.64
Dec	24.04-24.06	Mar	21.90 BID
Jan	23.33-23.36		Vol: 32007

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Nov	102.40	Nov	101.40
Jan	104.40	Jan	102.90
Mar	105.70	Mar	104.25
May	107.50	May	105.75
Jul	108.75	Sep	95.50
	Volume: 352		Volume: 38

POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Nov	unq	35.00
Mar	—	74.40
Apr	74.5	75.00
		Volume: 68

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Nov 84.25-84.75

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Oct 96	1138	1130	1135
Nov 96	1205	1195	1205
Dec 96	1210	1196	1206
Jan 97	1226	1220	1225
Vol: 142 lots		Open interest: 4096	
		Index 1044 +10	

(Official) (Volume prev day)

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE — **Rudolf Wolff**

	Cash:	3mth:	Vol:
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	1954.5-1955.0	1942.0-1943.0	129600
Lead ($/tonne)	767.00-768.00	766.00-767.00	102325
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1008.5-1009.0	1035.5-1036.5	430150
Tin ($/tonne)	6011.0-6015.0	6065.0-6070.0	15285
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1308.0-1308.5	1341.0-1342.0	1405425
Nickel ($/tonne)	6960.0-6970.0	7030.0-7045.0	402592

FTSE INDEX (*4010*)

3900	3950	4000	4050	4100	4150

Calls				Puts		
Oct	120½	80	38½	13	2½	1
Nov	148	108½	74	45½	24	11½
Dec	181	141	108	77	52½	34
Jan	194	158½	126½	97½	73½	53
Jun	270	—	209½	—	160½	—
Puts						
Oct	3½	8	19	45	88	138
Nov	18	28½	44½	67	98	139
Dec	34½	46½	64½	86½	114½	148½
Jan	50½	65	83	104½	131½	162½
Jun	113½	—	150	—	200	—

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100	Dec 96	4071.0	4072.0	4032.0	4044.0	15429
Previous open interest: 62228	Mar 97	4078.0	4078.0	4078.0	4056.0	54
FT-SE 250	Dec 96				4454.0	0
Previous open interest: 3571	Mar 97					0
Three Month Sterling	Dec 96	94.06	94.07	94.04	94.05	14504
Previous open interest: 419859	Mar 97	93.92	93.95	93.91	93.92	10107
	Jun 97	93.71	93.76	93.71	93.73	6903
Three Mth Euro Yen	Mar 97	99.33	99.33	99.33	99.33	907
	Jun 97	99.20	99.20	99.19	99.19	250
Three Mth Euro DM	Dec 96	96.86	96.88	96.85	96.87	30819
Previous open interest: 1078504	Mar 97	96.82	96.87	96.82	96.85	43383
Long Gilt	Dec 96	110-23	111-17	110-21	111-03	116894
Previous open interest: 166500	Mar 97	110-09	110-15	110-07	110-07	1274
Japanese Govmt Bond	Dec 96	123.27	123.61	123.27	123.46	3758
	Mar 97	122.99	122.53	122.47	122.46	220
German Gov Bd Bund	Dec 96	99.50	99.94	99.48	99.68	206303
Previous open interest: 258183	Mar 97	98.55	98.99	98.55	98.70	1120
Three month ECU	Dec 96	95.91	95.91	95.89	95.90	1007
Previous open interest: 22708	Mar 97	95.92	95.93	95.90	95.91	919
Euro Swiss Franc	Dec 96	98.39	98.41	98.35	98.38	5942
Previous open interest: 81288	Mar 97	98.39	98.39	98.34	98.36	3778
Italian Govmt Bond	Dec 96	123.45	124.17	123.41	123.65	79998
Previous open interest: 85065	Mar 97	123.20	123.20	122.90	122.90	550

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 5½ Finance Hse 6
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 5½ Low 7½ Week fixed: 5¹¹₁₆
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 5¹¹₁₆ ; 3 mth 5¹¹₁₆ . Sell: 2 mth 5⁵₁₆ ; 3 mth: 5⁵₁₆ .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	5¹¹₁₆-5⁵₁₆	5¹¹₁₆-5⁵₁₆	5¹¹₁₆-5⁵₁₆	5¹¹₁₆-5¹³₁₆	
Sterling Money Rates:	5¹³₁₆-5¹⁵₁₆	5¹₂-5¹⁵₁₆	5¹₂-5¹⁵₁₆	5¹³₁₆-5¹⁵₁₆	6¹₁₆-6⅛
Interbank:	5¹¹₁₆-5¹³₁₆	5¹₂-5¹⁵₁₆	5¹₂-5¹⁵₁₆	5¹³₁₆-5¹⁵₁₆	6¹₁₆-6⅛

Overnight: open 5¹₂ close 7 .

Local Authority Depo:	5¹⁵₁₆	n/a	5¹⁵₁₆	5¹⁵₁₆	6¼
Sterling CDs:	5¹³₁₆-5¹⁵₁₆	5¹³₁₆-5¹⁵₁₆	5¹³₁₆-5¹⁵₁₆	5¹³₁₆-5¹⁵₁₆	6¹₁₆-6¼
Dollar CDs:	5.29	n/a	5.41	5.51	5.71
Building Society CDs:	5¹³₁₆-5¹⁵₁₆	5¹₂-5¹⁵₁₆	5¹₂-5¹⁵₁₆	5¹³₁₆-5¹⁵₁₆	6¹₁₆-6¼

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5¼-4¹¹₁₆	5¼-5¼	5¼-5¼	5¼-5¼	5-4
Deutschemark:	3¹₁₆-2¹³₁₆	3¹₁₆-2¹₂	3¹₁₆-3	3¹₁₆-3	3¹₂-2¹₂
French Franc:	3¹₁₆-2¹₁₆	3¹₁₆-2¹₁₆	3¹₁₆-3¼	3¹₁₆-3¼	4-3
Swiss Franc:	1¹₁₆-1¹₁₆	1¹₁₆-1¹₁₆	1¹₁₆-1¹₁₆	1¹₁₆-1¹₁₆	2-1
Yen:	¹₁₆-⅛	¹₁₆-⅛	¹₁₆-⅛	¹₁₆-⅛	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $380.80-381.10 Close: $381.20-381.70 High: $381.40-381.70
Low: $380.40-380.90 AM: $380.90 PM: $381.35

Krugerrand: $380.25-384.25 (£243.00-245.00)

Platinum: $384.25 (£245.70) Silver: $4.93 (£3.145) Palladium: $117.25 (£74.95)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Oct 9	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.6808-2.6975	2.6835-2.6860	¹₁₆-par	2¼-2pr
Brussels	49.190-49.370	49.261-49.330	15-11pr	39-32pr
Copenhagen	9.1530-9.1770	9.1571-9.1660	2¼-1¼pr	5¼-4¼pr
Dublin	0.9741-0.9784	0.9754-0.9771	4pr	par-8-2pr
Frankfurt	2.3888-2.3957	2.3903-2.3923	¹₁₆-¼pr	1¼-1¼pr
Lisbon	241.35-242.44	241.84-242.15	¹₁₆-¼ds	¹₁₆-¼pr
Madrid	200.92-201.48	201.07-201.35	15-25ds	45-62ds
Milan	2373.2-2385.5	2382.1-2385.5	4-0pr	12-14pr
Montreal	2.1747-2.1203	2.1175-2.1196	0.44-0.39pr	0.82-0.74pr
New York	1.5628-1.5652	1.5640-1.5650	0.08-0.06pr	0.158-0.127pr
Oslo	10.159-10.189	10.169-10.178	¹₁₆-¼pr	¹₁₆-¼pr
Paris	8.0690-8.0970	8.0788-8.0879	1¼-1¼pr	3¼-3¼pr
Stockholm	10.272-10.320	10.292-10.313	¹₁₆-¼pr	¹₁₆-¼pr
Tokyo	174.03-174.63	174.31-174.53	1¼-¼pr	2½-2¼pr
Vienna	16.803-16.857	16.815-16.830	¹₁₆-¼pr	1¼-1pr
Zurich	1.9585-1.9672	1.9581-1.9609	¹₁₆-¼pr	2¼-2¼pr

Source: Extel — Premium - pr. Discount - ds.

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.2663-1.2671
Austria	10.75-10.76
Belgium (Com)	31.49-31.51
Canada	1.3539-1.3544
Denmark	5.8560-5.8580
France	5.1670-5.1700
Germany	1.5286-1.5291
Hong Kong	7.7315-7.7325
Ireland	1.6010-1.6030
Italy	1522.10-1522.40
Japan	111.46-111.51
Malaysia	2.5038-2.5048
Netherlands	1.7152-1.7158
Norway	6.5025-6.5045
Portugal	154.54-154.64
Singapore	1.4094-1.4104
Spain	128.58-128.62
Sweden	6.5819-6.5887
Switzerland	1.2545-1.2555

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso	1.5641-1.5667
Australia dollar	1.9803-1.9836
Bahrain dinar	0.5835-0.5950
Brazil real	1.5609-1.5651
China yuan	n/a
Cyprus pound	0.7225-0.7325
Finland markka	7.0725-7.1885
Greece drachma	371.75-378.75
Hong Kong dollar	12.0905-12.0990
India rupee	55.26-56.22
Indonesia rupiah	3592.0-3660.0
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4640-0.4740
Malaysia ringgit	3.9154-3.9193
New Zealand dollar	2.2677-2.2706
Pakistan rupee	57.25 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.6275-5.7515
Singapore dollar	2.2040-2.2069
S Africa rand (com)	7.0370-7.1390
U A E dirham	5.6775-5.8015

Barclays Bank GTS ª Lloyds Bank

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	414	Lloyds TSB	8,100
ASDA Gp	8,200	LucasVarity	7,200
Abbey Nti	2,900	Marks Spr	1,400
Allied Dom	901	NatWst Bk	2,900
Argos	154	Nat Grid	769
AB Foods	40	Nat Power	1,500
BAA	1,800	Next	1,300
BAT Inds	8,700	Orange	323
BOC	2,600	P & O	3,300
BP	6,700	Pearson	1,000
BSkyB	799	Pilkington	3,400
BTR	14,700	PowerGen	1,600
BT	11,700	Prudential	2,500
Bk of Scot	5,100	RMC	2,300
Barclays	2,600	RTZ	1,300
Bass	1,800	Railtrack	3,200
Blue Circle	1,300	Rank Group	2,700
Boots	1,200	Reckitt Col	575
BAe	638	Redland	840
BA	3,500	Reed Intl	1,100
Brit Gas	6,800	Rentokil	500
Brit Steel	11,200	Reuters	5,600
Burmah Cstl	1,400	Rolls Royce	2,300
Burton	4,100	Royal & Sun	603
Cable Wire	7,400	Royal Bk Sct	1,100
Cadbury	1,300	Safeway	1,800
Carlton Cms	1,600	Sainsbury	1,300
Cm Union	1,800	Schroders	210
Courtaulds	438	Scot & New	2,100
Dixons	2,900	Scot Power	1,300
EMI	2,800	Svrn Trent	935
Enterpr Oil	1,900	Shell Trans	5,400
GKN	957	Slebe	916
GRE	915	SmKl Bch	1,700
GUS	1,900	Smith Nph	3,900
Gen Acc	937	Smiths Inds	151
Gen Elec	4,100	Std Chartd	1,300
Glaxo Well	6,300	TI Gp	1,800
Granada	1,600	Tate & Lyle	268
Grand Met	1,500	Tesco	4,800
Guinness	2,700	Thames W	1,300
HSBC	3,300	Tomkins	2,100
Hanson	5,200	Unilever	1,200
ICI	2,400	Utd Utilities	915
Imp Tob	18,900	Utd News	828
Kingfisher	2,500	Vodafone	4,500
LASMO	1,700	Whitbread	782
Ladbroke	3,200	Wilms Hld	529
Land Secs	750	Wolseley	300
Legal & Gn	2,200	Zeneca	1,300

WALL STREET

	Oct 9 midday	Oct 8 close
AMP Inc	39¾	39½
AMR Corp	82¾	83
ASA	38¼	38
AT & T	39¾	39¾
Abbott Labs	53	53¾
Advanced Micro	16¼	16
Aetna Life	67¼	69
Ahmanson (HF)	28½	28¾
Air Prod & Chem	59¾	59¾
AirTouch Comm	26	26½
Alberto-Culver B	44	44¼
Albertson's	42¾	42¾
Alcan Aluminm	30¾	30¾
Alco Standard	48¼	48½
Allied Signal	64½	65
Alum Co of Am	56½	56½
Amax Gold Inc	5¾	5¾
Amerada Hess	55	55
Amer Brands	47¼	47¾
Amer El Power	41¼	41¾
Amer Express	47	47¼
Amer Genl Corp	38¾	36¾
Amer Home Pr	63¾	63½
Amer Intl	100¾	103¼
Amer Stores	41¼	41¼
Amer Standard	35	35¼
Ameritech	56	56½
Amoco	73¼	72¾
Anheuser-Busch	39¼	39¾
Apple Computer	23	23¼
Archer Daniels	19½	19½
Armco	4	4
Armstrng Wrld	64¼	64½
Asarco	24½	25½
Atl Richfield	130½	130¾
Auto Data Pro	43¼	43¼
Avery Dennison	58¼	59¼
Avon Products	49½	49½
Baker Hughes	32¾	32¾
Baltim Gas & El	26¾	26¾
Banc One	40¼	40½
BankAmerica	85½	86¼
Bank of NY	29½	29½
Bankers Tr NY	81½	81¾
Barnett Banks	59½	59
Bausch & Lomb	37¼	37¼
Baxter Intl	45¼	45¼
Bectn Dickinsn	44¼	44¼
Bell Atlantic	60	60¼
Bell Industries	16½	16½
Bellsouth	38¼	39½
Black & Decker	42¼	42½
Block (HAR)	27¾	28
Boeing	97¾	98
Boise Cascade	33¾	33

Yesterday's ideology will not win future votes



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Fifteen years ago, blinded by tolerance, I still thought the threat of the "loony left" was a scare, got up by the *politically neurotic. Until, that is, I read Manifesto: A Radical Strategy for Britain's Future.* This sometimes trenchant analysis was the work of six highly respectable Labour intellectuals, though each denied personal responsibility for the product of "a truly collective process".

No wonder. Socialist ideology led them logically but ludicrously to a programme that required vast extra public spending, exchange controls, import controls, mass nationalisation, state direction of investment and, later on, conversion of most smaller businesses to co-operatives. Some proposals seemed to have no point beyond the logical pursuit of dogma, led to silly contradictions and were bound to lose votes. Home ownership divided rich and poor but was bad for the working classes because it pre-empted democratic allocation. Collective bargaining was to extend to management, town hall and state industrial policy. Consumers needed more power but firms' output should no longer be determined by "essentially trivial dictates of artificially contrived consumerism".

This seemed daft in 1981. In much-diluted form, it ensured that Labour was crushed at the polls in 1983. Now it sounds quaint, serving only to explain why Tony Blair avoids theories or controversial detail.

Sadly, the blinkered ideological urge has not disappeared. It has turned from red to blue. Tories repairing to Bournemouth this week were treated by the Centre for Policy Studies to *A Conservative Agenda: proposals for a fifth term*, by Tessa Keswick and Edward Heathcoat Amory. Old Lefties who converted to Thatcherism would find the style familiar, down to the inevitable demand for ministers to have much bigger cadres of political advisers at taxpayers' expense. Chairman Mao would approve.

Among much good sense, they put up a series of sure vote losers. These include VAT on food and water, replacing too-successful Peps and Tessas with "more targeted schemes", privatising the Crown Estate and the Forestry Commission as well as the Royal Mail, abolishing student grants and means-testing child benefit.

VAT on water would alone virtually guarantee that Tory MPs were wiped out in the South West. VAT on food and fares would automatically raise pensions and all other benefits linked to the retail price index *pro rata*. Steeper increases in the social security budget would be demanded because these zero-rated items make up a larger proportion of the budgets of those relying on means-tested benefits. Even worse, more people on low incomes would need a benefit top-up. VAT on domestic fuel, a disproportionately large item in pensioners' spending, required £1 of extra public spending for every £3 raised.

What leads sane political activists to propose policies that are guaranteed to alienate the very "Middle England" voters they seek to woo? The simple answer is ideology. *If you accept the logic of* incentives, it must make sense to tax spending more in order to cut income and inheritance tax, regardless of the impact on public spending. If privatisation transformed British Airways, it must be good for anything that is still left, such as the nation's forests, even if good forestry is uneconomic at current interest rates.

After all, doubling VAT in 1979 was unpopular to start with. So was privatisation of BT in 1984, but no one would now want telephones back in the dead hand of the State. Such revolutionary logic has already turned a privatised gas industry that any Conservative could be proud of five years ago into a music-hall joke that is at risk of collapse.

The underlying problem is that Conservatives believe they need new policies to show they have not run out of steam after four terms, just as Labour, to avoid distrust, needs to have as few controversial plans as possible. Privatising the Post Office is not a new policy. It is an old policy that has been shelved. Post Office managers and the Department of Trade and Industry both know privatisation is essential for the Royal Mail to develop its business potential in fast-changing, competitive, cross-border markets. Unfortunately, they cannot agree a way to do it that the public would accept. Mainstream privatisation has nearly run its course. Only hard cases are left. More generally, we have already reaped most of the rewards of the Thatcher market revolution. After 17 years of effort, public spending still takes more than 40 per cent of national income. Yesterday's analysis by the Institute for Fiscal Studies suggests that no more than 1½ points is yet to be cut by the cyclical upturn to higher output and lower unemployment. That is no more than the increase already brought by switching from direct to indirect taxes.

New policies should tackle concerns that loom as large today as abuse of union power did in 1979. The huge rise in means-tested welfare spending is keeping the tax burden up. It is the worst side-effect of the 1980s medicine, caused by growth in relative poverty as state subsidies, regulated private subsidies and uneconomic jobs were swept away. Reducing poverty instead of relieving it is one of the key political issues of the next decade, along with Britain's role in Europe (addressed well by Stephen Dorrell yesterday), marrying economic progress with a cleaner environment and the related problems of drug-related crime and family breakdown.

Labour offers the minimum wage, which sounds good but would probably have only a marginal effect. A five-year Tory agenda might start next month by eliminating income tax on the poorest, which is expensive, and using the tax system to help low-income families with one earner, which is politically incorrect. Unlike the ideologues, it would also win votes.

The success of the rail sell-off masks a policy void on transport, says **Jonathan Prynn**

Jams today — and jams tomorrow

After years of sucking in its cheeks over rail privatisation the City has suddenly fallen in love with public transport. Railtrack was one of the most successful privatisations of recent years; shares of Prism Rail, the only quoted pure private rail company, are booming; and Stagecoach is one of the hottest stocks on the market. Financially, at least, transport is sexy.

A year ago it was all so different. One half of the City did not even understand privatisation. The other half believed that it was doomed to failure or that the political risk from Labour was far too great. There would be little interest in passenger franchises and the job would only be part done by the election. So ran the conventional wisdom.

A substantial part of the credit for this turnaround is owed to the City advisers on the sale, notably SBC Warburg and the marketing consultants Dewe Rogerson.

An outrageous bribe with public money it may have been but the £70 million dividend sweeteners offered to investors in Railtrack was a stroke of genius. It meant that greed outweighed fear in investors' attitudes to the sale and ensured a healthy oversubscription and first-day premium. Without that, rail privatisation could still have ended in chaos.

Since the flotation City confidence in privatisation has soared and the pace of the sell-off has accelerated to break-neck speed. More than 80 per cent of the former British Rail businesses have now been sold and 51 per cent of the passenger network will be in private hands by Monday.

Even the West Coast Main Line modernisation, complete with the promise of tilting trains, will be under way before the general election.

At times the speed of the breakup has given an impression of unseemly haste, a feeding frenzy of sales driven by a "scorched earth" political objective of completing the sale before Labour can take the reins.

Nevertheless, the achievements gave Sir George Young, Secretary of State for Transport, a platform to deliver an unusually upbeat message to the Conservative Party faithful in Bournemouth yesterday.

When Sir George was given the job last July he was told by John Major to turn transport, traditionally an electoral liability for the Conservatives, into a political asset before the next election. With rail privatisation effectively delivered he believes that he is now half way there.

For all the setbacks, political embarrassments, and — to be honest — cock-ups en route, Sir George is adamant that it never crossed his mind that the sale would not go ahead. "It was always going to work. What was in doubt was the pace at which we were going to do it.

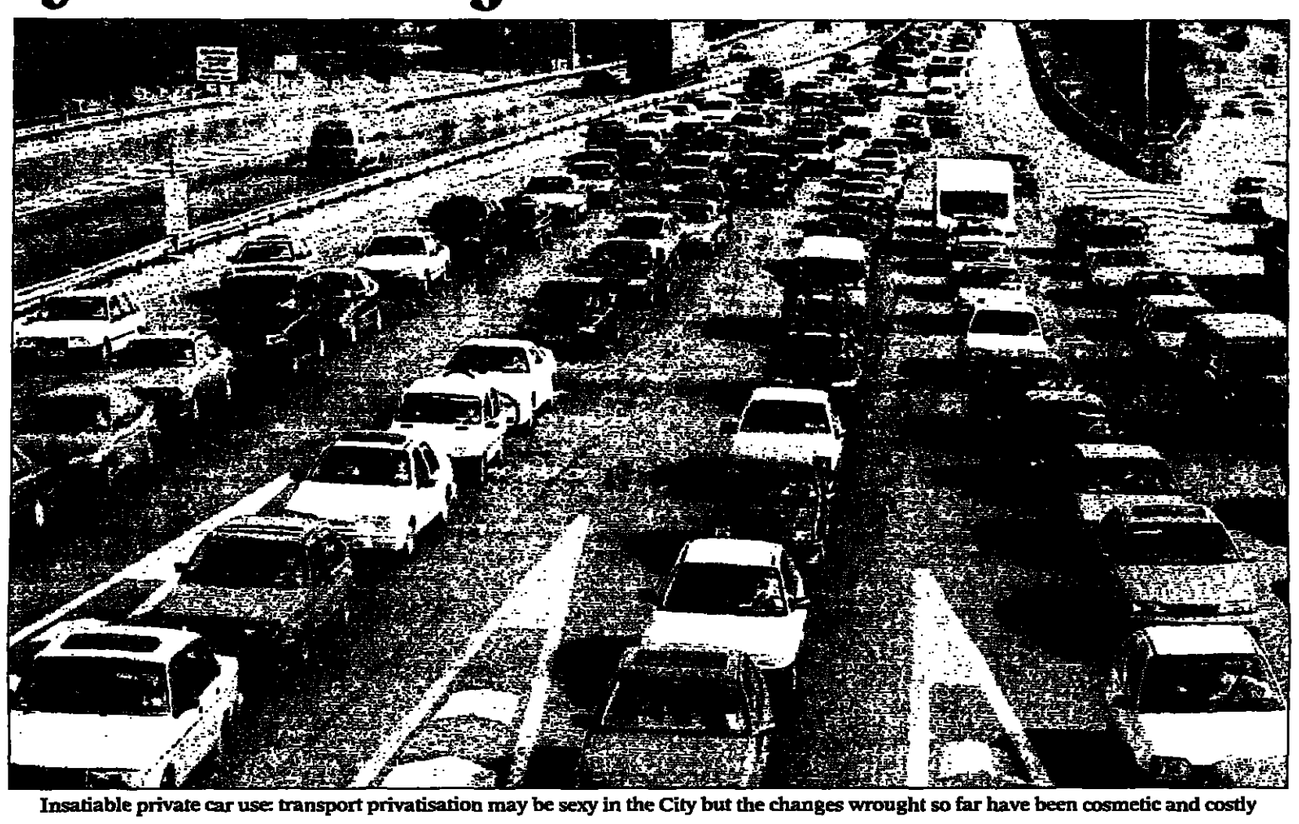
"As the City gets more confident in the process we can make swifter progress with franchising than we could a year ago," Sir George said.

He went on: "The judicial challenges were never going to stop it, only hold things up. The only thing that could have stopped it was a defeat in the House of Commons. And on all the votes we won comfortably. We took the view that we could deliver the policy. A year later we have done better than we thought in terms of progress and price, and in terms of perception in the City."

But if the City has been won round there is still a huge selling job to be done on the public. The changes brought about by privatisation so far have been largely cosmetic and incremental, and achieved at great cost.

The public subsidy to the railways doubled, to almost £2 billion, during privatisation and for several years more will not fall to the level of support that was being given to the railways. In the longer term, however, the efficiency of the national railways will be vastly improved. By 2003, when the first group of franchises reach the end of their lives, the subsidy is forecast to fall to £500 million.

Meanwhile, the solution to the transport problems that are still facing the country — essentially one of how to meet, and ultimately reverse, the apparently insatiable demand for private car use — remain as far away as ever.



Insatiable private car use: transport privatisation may be sexy in the City but the changes wrought so far have been cosmetic and costly

Touchingly, Sir George has pinned his hopes on the humble bus. If making trains exciting has proved difficult, imagine how much more of a challenge it will be putting the zest into buses.

"I regard the bus as the dark horse of transport, there is so much more that can be done for the bus," insisted Sir George. "You can have more information about when buses are running, newer buses, better bus shelters. In Birmingham, simply by also painting the route of the bus on its side passenger usage went up by 5 per cent." It is these sorts of low-cost, low-publicity projects that the Department of Transport specialises in these days. Treasury cuts have been so savage — and the department is expecting no favours this year either — that the grand announcements of John MacGregor's day in the early 1990s are looked back on as a half-remembered golden era.

Even the Government's much-vaunted private finance roads initiative could be running into difficulty and may have to be scaled down or halted. The schemes — a form of hire purchase under which private operators pay for roads to be built and are paid back over 30 years by the Government — achieve the short-term objective of relieving the pressure on the PRBR. Longer term they are a ticking financial time bomb with the combined annual payments on the various private road projects eating up an ever bigger slice of the Government's annual cake.

Ultimately, the only answer may be to take funding of roads out of Treasury control altogether. Plans for a radical full-scale "privatisation" of the motorway and trunk road network have been drawn up at the department but did not find favour with the political high command of the Conservative Party. With the pressure on roads budgets unlikely to go away, the plans could be dusted down again after the election, whoever holds the reins. If you thought that selling Railtrack was a political hot potato, wait till the City gets hold of RoadCorp.

Lang strikes from a different angle

Tory goal of industrial relations reform is finally in sight, says **Philip Bassett**

Behind the pre-election, union-bashing rhetoric of the Government's announcement yesterday of a new attempt to curb strikes lies a hugely important breakthrough for the Conservatives — a shift in thinking which, if enacted, might finally and cleverly lead them to a long-sought-for goal of, in effect, preventing strikes in Britain's essential services.

On the surface, Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade who has enhanced his reputation both within the Conservative party and Whitehall by his handling of the spate of strikes over the summer, yesterday used his platform at the Conservative Party conference in Bournemouth to rekindle old fears of trade union militancy.

He conjured up not just the strike-bound images of the 1970s which saw off the last Labour government, but attacked them in the language of industrial confrontation: bully and bludgeon, held to ransom, treated with contempt. Good populist stuff with little or no chance of becoming law before a general election, but which makes it look as though the Government is doing something new in the face of strikes in the Post Office, on the railways, on London Underground and elsewhere.

When Parliament returns, Mr Lang will introduce a new Green Paper setting out a package of proposals aimed at further industrial relations reform. The Government's tiny majority means that it will not proceed to a bill unless strike activity became so great it would have little choice but to do so. But after three months of consultation, a new move on trade union law would form a manifesto commitment.



Strikes in essential services would be banned under Ian Lang's proposals

The Green Paper, which Whitehall officials have been working on for some time, is likely to include a range of options for change, including more cooling-off periods and more balloting. But its central idea was rightly described by Mr Lang yesterday as a "new concept in British industrial relations — that of proportionality".

He went on to say: "If a strike's effects are disproportionately damaging to the public, then the trade union which organises the strike will risk losing its immunity and being sued for damages." Mr Lang said of unions organising strikes: "If they try to make the public pay, they may well find they will have to pay the public."

If a postal strike is affecting 20 million customers, then its impact might well be seen to be disproportionate. But if a single business goes under as a result of a much smaller strike, the impact of that strike is 100 per cent proportionate to that firm.

It would not be for the Government, but the courts, to decide the issue. This shift is central. Since 1979, whenever strike activity has risen, the Conservative Government has repeatedly looked at outlawing strikes in essential services, and has repeatedly had to put aside the idea when it has foundered on the rocks of legally defining what constitutes an "essential" service.

Clearly, ambulance staff would be. But would transport drivers delivering oxygen to hospitals, particularly if one day they are delivering oxygen, and the next they are delivering sandwiches to high street retailers?

The intellectual leap behind Mr Lang's proposal circumvents this whole quagmire by shifting the onus away from the infinite scrupulousness of Whitehall bill-drafters to the more robust decisions of the courts. This would leave it for individual judges to decide in individual cases brought by individual customers whether or not the strike action is "disproportionate", whether or not in fact it constitutes an essential service.

Some advisers are suggesting that in an age of Conservative-promoted service competition — where, on post or transport, for instance, there are clear alternatives for customers — it might be helpful to draw from current competition law to help to define a "monopoly" service, such as one which has a market share in its area of, say, 25 per cent.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Davies finds out his limit

CRUEL news for Howard Davies, former Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry and deputy Governor of the Bank of England, who was told recently that he could have a credit card with only a £500 limit. Talking at the British Computer Society Unisys lecture, Davies said he had been drawn in by the idea of collecting Air Miles everytime he made a purchase on his credit card; he knows how much his two boys like to travel. Why so low a limit? "Well sir," said the clerk at his bank. "You have moved jobs rather a lot in the last two years."

Speedy return

STRANGE goings-on at Legal & General, where the firm's publicity manager waved goodbye and was welcomed back within a week. Peter Timberlake, 36, who joined the insurer 16 years ago, left L&G to join EMR, a small financial services PR agency. But before you can say "about turn", he was back at his desk in Surrey, where he was reinstated in the same job — this time working for Kate Avery, who had been brought in from Barclays to replace Paul Hopper as L&G's marketing director. It was during his week at EMR, says Timberlake, that it dawned on him the "opportunities" he was missing with his old firm. Timberlake's colleagues at L&G have been kind enough not to make him return his leaving present, a rather fancy golf club.



"I'm calling our German office, but keep getting Cable and Wireless"

Phone tips

CITY salesmen have been under attack from Emma Forbes, the TV presenter. After running away with an Interpretational Skills Award at the 1996 European Multimedia Awards for her appearance on *Phone Fundamentals*, an educational interactive CD-ROM on phone behaviour, she delivered an aside on modern manners. Turning to City salesmen, Forbes said: "They need coaching more than anyone ... I met a dealer once who thought correct behaviour was to pick up the phone the quickest and shout the loudest."

VICTOR BLANK, chairman and chief executive of Charterhouse Bank, has been sent a pulse-racing invitation for his 54th birthday on November 9. He is one of 80 invited by Winged Fellowship, the charity that takes disabled people on holiday, to take part in a 300-foot bungee jump in Battersea — black tie required.

Missing out

CEDRIC, the pig of British Gas fame, was refused permission to join her GMB chums on a day-trip to Bournemouth yesterday, where they were protesting against "17 years of Tory greed and sleaze". She had to remain in her pen in Tower Hamlets because the union didn't apply in time for a licence to take her out. Instead, pigs from Dorset posed outside the conference centre. A photo-call for John Gummer, Environment Secretary, was relocated because of the blue rosette-wearing swine.

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Mounting concern over new fraud trends

BY ROBERT MILLER

A DISTURBING new wave of sophisticated money laundering and fraud techniques is stretching the resources of international agencies, a conference of leading fraudbusters will hear today.

Financial investigators at a two-day conference at Wakefield, Yorkshire, organised by the UK's National Criminal Intelligence Service (NCIS), will be told of the organisation's mounting concern over "new fraud trends which reach beyond conventional financial services." These include a new West African fraud and underground or "hawallah" banking.

The warning will be voiced by Detective Inspector Simon Goddard, head of the NCIS Economic Crimes Unit, which acts as an intelligence gathering service and as a clearing house for all suspicious financial transactions.

NCIS, which last year dealt with 13,710 suspicious disclosures, 80 per cent from banks and building societies and 237 from professionals such as accountants and solicitors, then contacts the relevant investigation agency.

In the UK this could be Customs & Excise or a local or regional fraud squad. Given the international and cross-border nature of money laundering and fraud, one of the main roles of NCIS is to maintain close links with agencies such as the FBI and Interpol.

West African fraud, says Mr Goddard, has long been identified as a problem area as it uses "a wide range of scams to part the gullible and the greedy from their cash". The latest such scam involves persuading people to "invest" in a scheme to clean US dollars which have been made unusable on purpose with dye.

"The fraudster claims to have discovered a solvent which will restore the dollars to a useable condition but requires a financial partner to buy stock in the cleaning agent. The rewards on offer are usually tens of millions of dollars but the unwary can end up ruined."

Hawallah banking is a money transmission system traditionally associated with members of the Asian and Chinese communities. Although this is not illegal in the UK, because as a non-deposit taking operation it is not regulated by the Bank of England, Mr Goddard says: "It falls outside our established financial reporting systems and could prove ideal for disguising criminal money."

British Coal disposal

BY CARL MORTISHED

BRITISH COAL has sold its property fund management arm to La Salle Partners, the Chicago property asset management group, for an undisclosed price.

CIN Property Management manages £1.5 billion of real estate for British Coal's pension funds. Its disposal follows the sale of CIN Management, the equity fund managers, to Goldman Sachs last month and the management buyout earlier of British Coal's venture capital business.

The British Coal pension fund property portfolio includes 17 shopping centres in the UK as well as office buildings in London, with a landmark tower near Oxford Circus comprising the BhS flagship store and 200,000 square feet of offices.

La Salle Partners International, the UK arm of La Salle, which will take over the CIN team, has £500 million under management in the UK. After the acquisition La Salle worldwide will have £9 billion under management.



Rise and shine: Bill Simpson, left, and Barry McKenzie, group finance director, reported strong half-year results

Steep drop in Japanese current account surplus

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

JAPAN'S current account surplus fell by nearly 29 per cent in August from a year earlier, with large outflows of yen to overseas capital markets, and import growth swollen by higher oil prices.

The current account surplus shrank by 28.9 per cent to 460.6 billion yen (about £2.7 billion from August in the previous year, the finance ministry said yesterday. It expected the current account balance, which has fallen continuously since September 1995, to remain on a downward trend.

A senior ministry official said: "Import growth has been far outpacing increases in exports and the deficit in services trade has been showing an upward trend."

The surplus in merchandise trade alone fell 27.8 per cent to 566.7 billion yen from August last year. The figures confirm the trend of rising imports, but also reflect a 52 per cent rise in Japan's monthly oil bill.

Economists noted the pace of the decline in the surplus was slowing as a weaker yen made Japanese exports more competitive and foreign products more expensive.

Surging outflows of Japanese capital contributed to the decline in August, the official said. With domestic interest rates at record low levels, Japanese investors are focusing on foreign currency deposits and international securities for better returns.

Japan's appetite for foreign travel also helped prune the surplus, due to rising numbers of Japanese travelling abroad in August.

Country Casuals hit

SHARES of Country Casuals shed 12 per cent of their value yesterday, falling 19p to 136½p, after the fashion retail group revealed an interim pre-tax loss of £918,000, a marginal improvement on its £1.04 million loss of a year ago (Sarah Cunningham writes).

The company's biggest problem was at Lerose Manufacturing, where losses increased from £145,000 to £365,000 in the six months ended July 27, after a major customer reduced demand. The company said that the order book has begun to recover in the past month, but losses would continue into the second half.

Losses were 3.07p a share (3.47p loss) but the company lifted its interim dividend from 1.41p to 1.7p, payable on December 16.

Silentnight beds down for record

BY FRASER NELSON

A REVIVAL of the UK's bed market has restored growth at Silentnight Holdings, the bed and cabinet maker, which yesterday said it was on course to return its strongest year-end results since 1994.

Bill Simpson, chief executive, said that the surge in raw material costs which had afflicted the company throughout 1995 had now abated, leaving pre-tax profits of £4.9 million (£3.2 million) in the six months to August 3. He added that demand had also recovered and was gathering strength in the second half.

However, costs at its cabinet division took longer to settle, forcing down the division's operating profits 31 per cent to £977,000. Mr Simpson said the situation had now recovered.

Overall, earnings rose to 6.99p per share (5.22p). The dividend of 3p (2.75p) is due on January 2. Analysts are forecasting record pre-tax full-year profits of £12.5 million.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Halma pays $9.5m for Volk Optical

HALMA, the UK safety systems and environmental controls company, has acquired Volk Optical Inc, of Cleveland, Ohio, a leading maker of lenses and optical systems used by optometrists and in microsurgery. Halma paid $9.5 million on completion, with a further $1.5 million due within 30 days, depending on Volk's level of assets and net cash. Halma is to pay Don and Joan Volk, principal vendors, $2.5 million in respect of a two-year service agreement and ten-year non-competition agreement. The vendors may also earn a maximum $2.5 million bonus on Volk sales to October 1998.

In the year to March 31, Volk had sales of $5.4 million and pre-tax profits of $1.59 million after deduction of $328,121 non-recurring salaries. Volk claims 70 per cent of the US market and is a significant supplier in Germany and Japan. Its products are already sold through two Halma subsidiaries, Keeler in Britain and Keeler Instruments in America.

New Holland at $3.97bn

NEW HOLLAND, the agricultural equipment company owned by Fiat of Italy, will be valued at up to $3.97 billion when trading in its shares begins on the New York Stock Exchange this month. Fiat's interest could be reduced to 69 per cent after the initial public offering of shares, to be priced at $20 to $23, it was announced yesterday. New Holland was formed in 1991 when Fiat acquired Ford New Holland Inc, merging its commercial activities with those of Fiat Geotech.

Jones Group in the red

AN Ir£4 million restructuring charge pushed Jones Group, of the Irish Republic, into the red in the first six months of this year. The shipping, radiator and oil-distribution group reported pre-tax losses of Ir£2.4 million (Ir£1.4 million profit). Denis Magee, chairman, said restructuring of the loss-making radiator division is continuing. Group turnover rose to Ir£49.5 million from (Ir£43 million). Losses were Ir18.8p a share (Ir11.1p earnings). There is no interim dividend (Ir4p).

Delays hurt Riva

LOSSES at Riva, the electronic till company, deepened to £890,000 in the six months to June 30 after delays in launching new products slowed its move away from point-of-sale hardware to till-systems software. The company, which made a loss of £55,000 last time, expects its new product range to help it to much stronger results in the second half. Riva's broker expects it to break even by the year end. Losses were 3p per share (0.2p loss). Again there is no interim dividend.

Eurovein bounces back

EUROVEIN, the specialist filtration and surface treatment company, returned to profit in the year to July 31, earning £1.36 million before tax. In the previous year the company incurred losses of £1.18 million. Earnings were 9p a share (9.2p loss). The final dividend is reinstated at 2p a share (nil), making a total of 3p (0.51p). Turnover rose to £39.4 million (£32.59 million). Operating profit before reorganisation costs recovered to £1.34 million (£39,000). The shares rose 12p to 65½p.

Prices fuel Frost hopes

FROST GROUP, the independent petrol retailer, expects to benefit from increases in petrol prices imposed by leading petrol companies. Frost said its Save discount petrol stations had regained competitiveness and made a strong recovery in volumes in August and September. Gross margins have not significantly improved and earnings for the year should be in line with City expectations. Vasant Bhuva, finance director, is leaving the company "by mutual agreement" on November 1.

ACCOUNTANCY

Long live the mid-sized firm

Flexibility and a good corporate finance arm help in a changing environment, says **John Wosner**

Mark Twain's quotation "rumours of my death have been greatly exaggerated" can be equally applied to the medium-sized accountancy firm. For 15 years seasoned observers have been saying that it would disappear in the face of competition from the large accounting firms.

During the 1980s it seemed that this would come true. As well as a consolidation of the biggest firms from eight to six, a number of mid-sized firms were acquired. However, over the past ten years this process has dried up. With two exceptions there have been no notable acquisitions or mergers between mid-tier firms. Why did the experts get it wrong?

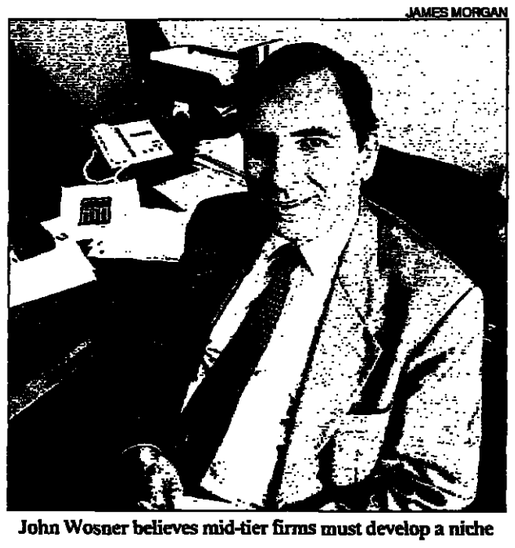
The answer lies in the continuing polarisation that has taken place. A recent survey showed that 94 per cent of the top 500 quoted companies are now audited by Big Six firms. Those mid-sized firms that wished to remain in this market accepted the inevitable strategic decision of takeover. Those firms that did not view it as their primary market opted to remain independent so that they could concentrate on their own market, that of small and medium enterprises. Many of the larger mid-tier firms have, through regional and local coverage, strong positions in the middle market.

What is the middle market? Broadly speaking it includes companies with turnovers of between £5 million and £100 million. Typically they employ between 30 and 1,000 people. The middle market overlaps to some degree with the definitions used for small and medium enterprises. It encompasses about 20,000 businesses in the UK and given its size it is not surprising that mid-tier firms have focused on it as their natural market.

If one bears in mind that about three out of four of these businesses are private companies requiring advice it is not surprising that the role of the professional and his relationship with founding family members and owner-managers is seen as quite distinct.

The typical management team of a public-listed company, on the other hand, must grapple with issues (such as corporate governance and duties to public shareholders) as paramount rather than ancillary. Nevertheless, one in four companies in the middle market are quoted, which accounts for the fact that several medium-sized firms have maintained and developed their existing skills in Stock Exchange work and come into direct competition with the Big Six.

JAMES MORGAN



John Wosner believes mid-tier firms must develop a niche

As a result, those mid-tier firms that have invested in a good quality corporate finance arm have found opportunities to provide corporate advice and finance services to a wide range of institutions not restricted to the servicing of the middle market. Similarly, over the past 20 years Big Six firms have been tempted to extend into the middle market.

What makes the well focused mid-tier accounting firm the natural financial adviser? First, it is the importance of long-term relationships. Secondly, the decision-making process in the typical middle-market company is more flexible and responsive than the typical multinational. Thirdly, the middle market company lays greater emphasis on the quality of product or service.

Having said that, there are no grounds for complacency among the mid-tier firms. Private companies are increasingly recognising the need to ensure that their production techniques and information systems are keeping pace with the rapid changes brought about by new technology. Many middle-market companies are becoming aware of the wide and sophisticated range of short and long-term sources of finance that a few years ago was simply not there for companies outside the multinationals.

Corporate governance is taking a higher priority among many private companies and the use of non-executive directors, the need for adequate internal control procedures and the growth of employee shareholder schemes all point to the need for advice associated with multinationals in the past.

So long as they remain flexible to introduce new financially based consultancy services and advice required by the modern private company, mid-tier firms will be the preferred choice of the middle-market company.

Those able to adapt will at the same time sharpen their ability to develop niches attractive to their clients and clients of Big Six firms.

The days of the mid-size firm are not numbered. But only those that adapt sufficiently to the changing demands will survive and those that do survive will be joined by others, currently too small to be classed as mid-tier, but better able to identify the demands that a fast changing business and technological environment offers.

The author is national managing partner of Pannell Kerr Forster

Training in need of balanced approach

IT IS still a widely held belief that at the current rate of the profession's expansion the entire world population will be accountants by the middle of the next century, if not before. Yet, for the UK at least, the opposite is true. For the main chartered bodies the number of students in training for the profession's exams is in steady long-term decline and has been for some time.

So what has the English ICA, the largest of the accountancy bodies been doing about it? It has been attempting to make the syllabus more relevant and, more important, trying to make the training system more flexible so that firms will feel themselves able to afford to train more young hopefuls.

This effort came to grief earlier in the year when members called a special meeting to throw out the original proposals. The fault was as much poor consultation on the institute's part as its efforts to change the syllabus. But members, particularly those in smaller firms, were outraged at what they saw as an effort to dilute the core content of the exams.

The result has been a huge consultation exercise and a series of terribly tentative suggestions that may become proposals after yet another consultation exercise. The institute is now terrified of members chucking out the proposals again.

But the problem really is not that smaller firms do not like the idea of change in the examination syllabus and structure. It is that the smaller firms do not like training student accountants at all. In 1985 smaller firms, those of up to ten partners, registered 1,532 new students. By last year the figure was 735.



ROBERT BRUCE

At the root of the malaise is cash. The big firms, whose students numbers are also in decline, argue that the lack of flexibility in timing of study leave and its length can no longer be justified financially.

And the smaller firms just cannot, they say, afford to train student chartered accountants. It does seem odd that all the exhortations for small firms to become more businesslike has simply resulted in a cull of their own natural successors. The small firms care enough to argue about the syllabus but not enough to recruit a student. The current inexorable 7.5 per cent decline in their student numbers each year will lead, sooner rather than later, to no new chartered accountants coming through in smaller firms.

Theoretically the firms would wither and die. But, in fact, they would not. What would happen is that there would just be many more certified accountants among their ranks. It is much cheaper and less disruptive to train certified accountants. They cost less and there is less reliance on lengthy periods of inflexible study leave.

Among the current generation of accountants in their prime this must seem a difficult issue. The younger generation is the graduate-only generation. Those in their late forties and early fifties are the last of a generation that tended to start student training straight from school. The three current office-bearers at the Scots ICA, for example, are all accountants who started training straight from school.

The Scots ICA is finding the debate as difficult as the English ICA. There is one council member, for example, who insists on training only certified accountants in his firm. He will tell you, in no uncertain terms, that graduates are useless, that they couldn't find a bus-stop, let alone an error in a trial balance. Yet there is another council member whose firm, of similar size, makes a selling point of training the best and brightest of graduates as Scots CAs.

The problem for the accountancy bodies is finding the right balance between emphasising the high quality and reputation of the qualification and encouraging firms, of all sizes, to take people on as students.

One route, favoured by the English ICA, would be for greater flexibility of exam times. Accountancy firms are at their least busy in August so why not hold the exams then when students are least likely to be needed on audit? And why not cut back on study leave by making the subjects that are based on what used to be known as book-learning into distanced learning technology-packaged programmes. To the older generation this will provoke nightmares of the days when a company called Foulks Lynch dominated the market with mind-numbing correspondence courses at which, theoretically, students laboured through their weekday evenings.

But the answer to the whole problem has to be to make it easier to take on and train students. Keep the exams stiff. But make sure that bright young people, whether straight from school or university, can still train in smaller firms if they wish.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Board can't slip its moorings

NEXT week the world should hear what the accountancy profession has decided to do about the Auditing Practices Board. For years it has yearned to be free from the yoke of the accountancy bodies and to move its offices from the stifling precincts of the English ICA's headquarters in Moorgate Place.

Under the proposals for a new review board for the profession it is expected to be allowed to fly the coop. But it should not expect too much. Rumour has it that it will celebrate its new freedom by moving to Number 3 Moorgate Place, exactly next door to the institute, and into offices that the institute itself has vacated.

Members are going to have to muffle the popping of the champagne corks.

Ad hoc campaign

THE unveiling of the latest advertising campaign from the English ICA takes place next week. But people expecting another mildly risqué and baffling poster campaign are going to be disappointed.

This time it will take the form of newspaper advertising and emphasise the benefits of a chartered accountant as a business adviser. That's the trouble with accountants; they have no sense of adventure.

Charity clarity

AT LEAST someone in the tax business has good timing. TaxAid, the charity that provides tax advice to the needy, has produced *The Tax Debt Handbook*. As the book points out succinctly: "The doubling of self-employed numbers during the last 15 years, combined with a growth in debt generally, makes it likely that in future every tax adviser will have to assist clients with tax debts more frequently." And self-assessment will simply make the situation worse.

The handbook deserves to be a bestseller, and all the profits go to the charity. It costs £29.50. Details on 0171 624 5216.

ROBERT BRUCE

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الاصل

Equities down across the board

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:

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Source: FT Information

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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
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Gritland Glpt Bd	134.20	139.10	..	2.53
Gritland Gilt	78.30	78.91	+ 0.22	6.41
Gritland Japan	185.30	174.50	- 2.10	..

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General Acc	626.00	729.80†	- 0.70	2.42
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UK Growth Inc	394.50	324.00	- 4.70	3.39
Higher Inc Acc	814.20	865.70	- 0.40	4.05
Higher Inc Inc	439.80	461.50	-11.20	4.65
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	216.20	228.40†	+ 1.40	5.71
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	94.67	99.99†	+ 0.58	5.71
Nth America	360.20	415.20	- 4.60	..
Europe	370.90	394.60†	+ 0.80	0.35
Sm Growth	93.00	98.94	+ 0.02	2.70
Tech Growths Acc	116.90	124.40†	..	4.55
Brit Fndmtls Inc	78.19	83.19†	..	4.55
Global Oppo	108.10	112.90	- 0.70	0.03
Balanced Acc	64.56	68.69†	- 0.02	2.83
Balanced Inc	60.25	64.07†	- 0.01	2.83
Japan Acc	44.57	47.42†	- 0.28	0.00
Pac Basin Acc	466.30	432.20	+ 0.20	0.00

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Gilts & Fixed Int	133.20	141.40†	+ 0.30	5.90
High Inc Equity	103.80	110.70†	+ 0.90	4.39
Worldwide Bond	206.60	304.00	+ 0.40	4.84
American Growth	395.10	422.50	- 2.00	0.30
Asian Pacific	327.80	350.60	+ 1.40	0.69
Assets & Earnings	314.20	336.10	+ 1.70	2.68
Euro Capital Acc	192.60	206.00	+ 0.70	0.77
Extra Inc	43.71	46.50†	+ 0.10	7.71
General	298.10	306.50	+ 0.80	2.66
Global Oppo	70.40	74.80†	+ 0.12	0.53
Japan	114.50	122.50	- 1.10	..
Managed Inc	48.72	51.80†	+ 0.13	4.63
Mastertrust	172.20	184.20	+ 0.80	0.99
US Emerging Cos	221.30	236.40	- 2.50	..
Ethical	90.30	97.94	+ 0.01	2.43
Investment	140.70	149.70	- 0.20	0.29
Dividend & Growth	68.87	73.37	+ 0.37	4.19
Global Gwth & Inc	73.45	78.48	- 0.06	2.53
Latin Advance	68.05	72.47	+ 0.26	..
Capital Reserve	145.70	145.60	..	4.80

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UK Small Cos	2385.00	2459.00	..	..

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Apac Inc & Growth	62.76	65.17†	- 0.67	0.15
Emerging Mkts	74.26	78.30	- 0.12	0.04
European	154.20	160.30	..	..
Exempt	1108.00	1171.00†	+ 7.00	1.56
Extra Income #	46.90	50.06†	- 0.01	6.50
Far East Exmp Acc	135.00	138.50	- 0.60	0.45
Fixed Interest #	75.00	79.75	- 0.08	5.86
Fixed Int Tst	153.60	161.20†	+ 0.20	9.57
Japan	176.40	183.40	- 1.40	..
Latin American	92.50	65.15	+ 0.16	0.76
Pacific	85.93	89.95	- 0.44	0.29
Property Shares	71.80	75.50	- 0.07	2.33
UK Emerging Cos	71.27	77.04	- 0.17	1.25
UK Growth	54.89	57.67†	+ 0.04	2.03
Aber World Port #	83.97	88.54	- 0.20	3.38
Edinvar	59.52	61.69	- 0.02	12.16
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	58.95	51.09†	- 0.03	7.25

For AECON see Matheson

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Retail Property #	98.12	105.60	..	5.30

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Annty Income	92.11	97.73†	- 0.09	2.34
Income Builder Inc	82.28	87.53	+ 0.17	4.19

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Balanced Trusts:				
Growth & Income	290.00	310.00†	- 1.30	3.00
Capital	508.10	543.10†	- 3.10	1.16
Balanced	847.90	906.40	- 4.20	2.20
Accumulator	1630.00	1742.00†	- 9.00	1.79
Income Trusts				
American Income	62.77	66.90†	- 0.53	2.39
High Income	464.20	496.20†	- 1.90	3.81
Equity Income	264.70	282.80	- 1.30	3.93
High Yield	267.00	306.80	- 1.30	3.92
Gilt Securities	34.56	36.51††	+ 0.18	5.98
International Trusts				
Amer Spec Sits	219.90	234.60†	- 1.80	0.05
European Growth	34.87	58.45†	- 0.30	0.07
International	160.70	200.80	- 1.10	0.11
Japan	197.60	211.20	- 2.20	..
Pacific	415.50	444.10	- 1.10	..
Spec sit America	607.80	646.90	-05.90	0.12
Weste Asset Vall	57.02	60.95†	- 0.33	0.02
Specialised Trusts				
Asset Value	653.60	698.60	- 3.30	1.95
Com & Gtt	50.57	54.05†	- 0.11	3.82
Smaller Cos	209.30	223.70	- 0.60	1.02
Sel Smaller Cos	158.40	212.00†	- 0.80	0.87
Recovery	173.70	185.60†	- 0.40	1.52
Mel Min & Cdty	167.30	178.70	- 1.90	0.17
Gtsts Earning:	434.40	464.30	- 2.40	1.64
Technology	333.90	350.00†	- 1.10	..
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Capital	86.61	92.14	- 0.42	1.28
International	71.38	75.94	+ 0.45	..

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America	354.90	379.30†	- 0.78	..
Trend	119.60	125.90†	+ 0.30	6.64
Bd Smlr Cos	119.20	126.80	- 0.10	1.77
Corp & Gen #	70.42	74.91	- 0.12	5.22
Europe	294.40	312.20	- 0.90	0.57
Euro Smlr Cos	126.60	136.00	- 0.60	0.56
Income Gwth	359.00	383.00†	- 1.00	4.83
Japan	308.90	328.20†	- 2.40	..
Latin American	88.52	94.60	+ 0.31	0.74
Pacific	115.60	123.30	+ 0.60	0.99
UK Smlr Cos	59.89	63.71	+ 0.05	1.26
Japan Fd	642.70	661.50	- 4.80	..
Mangd Fd	206.70	219.60	+ 0.10	2.74

BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD
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Bnt & Overs	379.30	401.20	..	0.88
Capital Gwth	129.80	137.30	..	3.18
Wrldw Oppc	224.90	237.80	..	0.92

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Balanced Trusts:				
Bal Inv Fd Inc	441.30	462.10	+ 1.60	2.34
European Bd Inc	98.24	101.70	..	6.83
Exempt	95.34	90.97	+ 0.20	7.76
500	512.50	559.20†	+ 0.10	2.36
General	331.60	355.10†	+ 1.40	2.48
Property	245.60	263.50	- 0.20	5.20
Income	231.80	247.90	+ 0.80	2.30
Income Trusts				
Cash Inc	100.10	100.10†	..	5.11
Distribution ⊕ #	114.50	115.10†	+ 0.30	5.98
Extra Income #	137.70	147.30†	+ 0.20	4.78
Gilt & Fxd Int	59.43	61.91†	+ 0.06	7.73
Income #	569.80	641.30	+ 1.90	4.53
Income Builder #	70.10	74.77†	+ 0.25	5.27
Intl Income	72.40	77.02	- 0.10	2.60
Growth Trusts - UK				
Capital	145.60	155.40	+ 0.70	1.98
FTSE 100	103.40	110.10	+ 0.60	2.59
Leisure	180.60	193.20	+ 0.80	0.73
Recovery	500.50	536.50	+ 0.60	2.62
Smlr Cos Inc	59.07	63.25	+ 0.07	2.29
Special Sits	482.50	431.30	+ 0.40	1.31
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
America	178.00	188.90	- 1.00	0.40
F East Gwth Acc	288.60	308.60	- 1.40	2.03
Far East Gwth	172.60	184.20	- 1.00	2.03
Euro Gwth Inc	188.40	211.80	- 0.30	0.43
Euro Capital Acc	216.80	230.10	- 0.40	0.43
Japan	148.50	155.10	- 1.70	..
Japan Spec Sits	148.30	158.90	- 1.70	..
Worldwide	202.60	215.10	- 0.60	0.45

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American Growth	139.90	146.80	..	..
Asian Smlr Cos	175.60	188.50	..	..
Commodities	60.87	65.12†	..	4.60
Eastern	301.80	324.40	..	0.38
Equity Income #	180.80	187.70	..	4.30
European Growth	371.50	394.70	..	0.80
Europe	369.70	394.80	..	0.88
German Growth	90.75	96.12	..	0.50
Global Bond	72.64	76.41	..	6.20
Global Growth	150.70	160.20	..	0.40
Japan Growth	195.00	207.40	..	..
Japan Smlrco	158.10	168.90	..	..
Korea Trust	62.50	67.89	..	..
Pacific	148.70	158.50†	..	2.00
Pan-European	281.60	301.30	..	2.00
UK Growth	167.40	175.30	..	2.60
UK Smaller Cos	99.18	107.60	..	1.90
Select Managers:	90.85	97.45	..	1.90

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Intl Gwth Port Inc	92.34	98.13	..	..
Special Oppor Inc	61.29	65.20	..	..

BRITANNIA FUND MGRS LTD
0141 223 6020

Balanced Growth	143.82	152.19†	- 1.49	1.40
-do- Accum	167.42	177.16	- 1.73	1.40
Smaller Cos	156.88	166.01	+ 4.50	0.68
Higher Yield #	57.96	61.34†	+ 0.17	4.96
American Gth Inc	165.56	171.70	- 0.45	..
European Growth	172.84	182.95†	+ 1.10	..
-do- Accum	175.50	185.71	+ 1.10	..
Global Bond Inc #	35.77	37.72	- 0.04	4.52
Mngd Profio Inc	54.10	57.23†	- 0.05	1.40
-do- Accum	56.15	59.39	- 0.05	1.40
Int Spec Opps	169.40	179.20	- 1.40	..
Pacific Gth	149.85	158.40	+ 3.60	..
UK Growth #	97.70	103.39	+ 0.53	2.77
-do- Accum #	104.53	110.62	+ 0.46	2.77
Japan	57.56	60.91	- 0.21	..
Gilt & Fixed Int #	102.10	108.01†	- 0.09	8.28

BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD
0171 480 7216

Shad Dated Gilt	97.15	99.01	+ 0.13	8.39

CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD
0161 837 5060

Evenin	193.10	203.30	..	1.74
UK Growth	215.80	227.20	+ 0.60	1.96
UK Income	149.60	157.50†	+ 0.40	4.38

CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD
01767 822 100

Can Gen Dist	239.90	253.80	- 0.30	1.58
-do- Income Dist	129.20	132.10	- 0.10	3.65
-do- Accum	415.20	440.00	+ 0.30	3.66
Gilt & Fxd Int	41.65	43.76	+ 0.24	6.31
Growth Units	258.50	277.30†	- 0.01	2.03
Bond	177.70	187.00†	+ 0.10	6.60
Intl Growth	250.60	266.60	- 1.30	0.18
North American	266.40	283.60	- 1.90	0.18
Far East	307.50	326.90	- 0.20	0.97
UK Smaller Cos	234.40	248.00	- 0.10	0.97
European	99.91	105.80	- 0.30	0.60
Japanese Growth	45.77	48.56	- 0.57	..
High Income	221.90	237.30†	+ 0.70	4.23

CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD
0161 831 7433 Enq 0161 831 7433 Dlg 0161 831 7455

American & Gen	227.30	241.50†	- 1.60	..
European Inc	97.00	102.75†	+ 0.01	0.47
Smaller Cos (4-1)	109.50	116.50†	+ 0.60	1.51
Growth	357.30	382.80†	- 2.50	1.76
Income & Growth #	464.70	494.40	+ 2.70	3.82
-do- Accum #	702.50	747.40	+ 1.20	3.82
Japan & Gen	85.58	89.54	- 0.78	..
Master Portfolio	£122.90	£127.80†	- 1.00	1.78
-do- Accum	£152.05	£157.13	- 1.00	1.78
Special Sits	130.30	138.70	..	1.78
High Yield	£15.20	£15.68	+ 2.00	4.22

CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
0171 606 0700

Cazenove Portfolio	103.77	110.72	+ 0.02	2.31
American Portfolio	136.30	134.12	- 0.78	0.77
European Portfolio	138.30	147.15†	- 0.20	0.66
High Income	83.34	53.38	+ 0.30	6.91
Japanese Portfolio	66.87	71.01	- 0.69	..
Pacific Portfolio	159.26	171.25	+ 0.17	1.35
UK Equity	88.54	105.07†	+ 0.22	3.00
UK Equity & Bd	59.37	62.83	+ 0.29	6.08

CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG
0171 588 1815

Inv Fund	787.27	789.17	+11.04	4.18
Fxd Int Sec	158.08	158.72	+ 2.25	5.01

CGNF CHARITY FUNDS
0171 588 1815

Investment Inc	774.00	786.50	+ 4.42	4.23
Investment Acc	835.72	836.26	+40.47	..
Fixed Int Inc	125.69	127.19	- 1.20	9.12
Fixed Int Acc	230.87	231.79	+ 3.12	..

CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD
0171 407 5965

Beckman Intl	91.70	96.67†	+ 1.35	2.97
Back Bio-Tech	46.57	50.26	..	..
Asian Ethical Tst	190.72	199.30	..	0.43
City Fin Assets	82.68	88.82†	..	1.51
City Fin America	112.35	117.58	+ 0.76	..
City Fin Intl	92.40	98.08	- 0.48	0.44
City Fin Japan	140.36	147.31	- 2.64	..
Friars Hse Cap	331.72	352.89	..	2.40
Buckley Wrld Gwth	145.19	153.90†	- 0.48	..
J Sbl Int/Eqty Inc	56.62	59.45	..	3.24
Stone Utilities	56.64	57.78	+ 0.10	6.30

CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0171 711 0771 Acadia: 01277 227 300
Emerging Markets 57.76 61.31 + 0.05

CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD
0345 772 233

Apsley Cap Gwth	83.28	88.60	- 0.34	..
Dragon Growth	72.67	77.72	+ 0.07	0.45
Equity High Inc	90.25	96.76†	+ 0.04	4.05
Far East Inc	130.88	140.06	+ 0.07	4.05
Extra Income Inc	26.66	28.97†	+ 0.05	7.28
Extra Income Acc	29.34	30.89†	+ 0.06	7.28
European Gwth	64.93	68.89	- 0.16	0.05
Exempted	32.30	34.54	- 0.03	0.02
General Equity	105.93	113.39	- 0.25	2.91
Japan Growth	48.36	51.45	- 0.58	..
Pedigree Gwth	85.66	89.85	- 0.05	2.26
Pref Sns Cos Inc	38.62	41.08	+ 0.01	1.50
-do- Accum	40.92	43.53	+ 0.02	1.50
Retirement Inc #	28.85	29.84	- 0.01	5.71
Special Sits	47.55	50.58	- 0.04	1.27
UK & Overseas	62.74	64.45	- 0.09	0.69

COLONIAL UT MGRS LTD
01534 886 000

Balanced	70.58	73.92	+ 0.03	4.11
Capital	84.60	88.33	+ 0.07	2.58
High Income	92.76	54.95	+ 0.14	6.61
Top 50	97.18	99.58	-0.022	2.57

COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD
0181 686 9818

PREMIER PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	194.96	203.08†	+ 0.32	4.92
Long Gilt	93.98	95.79†	+ 0.44	8.01
Monthly Inc Plus	50.71	52.41	+ 0.17	8.55
Preference Share	47.18	49.15†	+ 0.29	7.93
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	142.11	148.03†	+ 0.23	5.76
Managed Fund	78.21	81.47†	- 0.14	2.67
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	53.64	55.98	+ 0.07	1.70
-do- Accum	63.40	66.04	+ 0.07	1.70
UK & General	98.88	103.05†	+ 0.03	2.07
-do- Accum	120.05	125.47†	+ 0.05	2.07
UK Growth	198.61	206.89	- 0.23	1.36
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	216.15	225.16	+ 0.21	0.64
Far Eastern Gnth	137.26	142.96	- 0.54	0.02
Global Bond	80.78	84.15†	- 0.09	5.68
Japan Growth	140.55	115.16	- 1.12	..
North Amer Gnth	243.46	253.60	- 1.18	..
Oriental Growth	85.51	89.07	+ 0.06	0.26
Worldwide Growth	74.93	78.05	- 0.25	..
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	91.52	91.52†	+ 0.01	5.91
Homeowners Fund	92.92	96.85	..	1.53
Guilter Fund	159.10	169.25	+ 0.26	1.88

CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD
0171 407 5965

Consistent UT	38.09	39.60	..	4.30

COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD
0800 526 358

Growth	189.90	192.40	- 0.70	1.93
Income	73.76	73.47	- 0.13	4.62
European	77.10	82.00	+ 0.04	1.15
Recovery	191.50	203.70	- 0.20	2.22

CO-OP PERSION FDS UT MGRS LTD
0171 283 9494

Equity Dist	995.80	1011.30	..	3.38

CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD
01277 680 370

Fellowship Tst	112.20	119.30†	+ 0.20	1.15
Income #	295.70	314.50	- 0.10	4.02
-do- Accum #	773.90	823.20	- 0.10	4.02
Smaller Cos	238.20	253.40	..	0.65
-do- Accum	295.80	314.60	..	0.65
Sth Portfolio	104.30	110.90	+ 0.10	1.28
High Inc Port #	94.95	90.37	..	4.36

DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD
0171 470 1634

Euro Small Cos	1683.80	1732.80	..	..
Japan Small Cos	1195.30	1215.60	..	0.01
UK Small Cos	2216.80	2313.00	..	2.86
US Small Cos	2787.30	2861.10	..	0.63

DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS
0171 377 8616

Dist Inc	232.80	245.00	..	3.05

EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD
01242 577 555

UK Balanced Inc	175.40	186.50	+ 0.60	1.73
UK High Inc Inc	167.10	174.70	+ 0.60	3.66
-do- Accum	347.20	362.90	+ 0.70	3.66
UK Prel & Fl Inc	80.62	84.33	+ 0.23	5.75
Emerald Opps	99.27	105.60	+ 0.30	0.95
UK Smlr Cos #	70.46	74.97	+ 0.05	0.60
Extra Income Inc	48.97	53.15	+ 0.07	7.80

EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0345 090 528

Commodities #	180.00	190.40	- 0.60	0.42
Equity Income #	23.38	24.84†	+ 0.10	5.64
Eurofund	145.30	154.40†	+ 0.10	3.89
Financial	65.11	68.84	- 0.22	0.58
General & Inc #	58.97	60.53†	- 0.02	1.49
Growth & Inc #	294.50	312.90	+ 0.10	2.80
High Dist #	184.00	195.50	- 0.64	4.04
International	442.90	470.80	- 0.50	0.11
Int Cap Inc	105.70	112.80†	- 0.20	2.39
Latin American	34.08	36.21	+ 0.10	..
Managed Fund	82.35	87.50†	+ 0.01	..
Pref High Inc	72.44	73.84†	+ 0.08	7.55
Tokyo	217.30	230.00†	- 2.00	..
UK Smaller Cos	258.00	274.10	- 0.10	1.09
Dunedin Unit Trusts:				
European Gwth	343.60	362.90	- 1.70	0.93
Jap Smlr Co	434.80	461.50	+ 4.00	..
Nth Amer	434.00	459.90	- 0.50	0.64
Uk Inc & Gwth	252.70	270.60†	- 0.10	2.74

ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD
0171 242 0242

Gilt Directus Dlgs	119.52	127.85	+ 1.00	1.10
Gwalia Acc	251.02	270.64	+ 3.03	0.25
Income	815.59	868.38	+ 1.55	6.08

ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD
01273 378 7291

Endurance Fd	231.60	245.70†	..	0.99

EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
01295 431 480

European	93.32	98.23	- 0.66	2.09
Ethical Tst	48.62	51.18	- 0.15	0.88
Far Eastern	366.66	383.15	- 0.87	1.52
High Income	142.48	149.98	- 0.40	4.84
UK Index Trckng	51.64	54.57	- 0.37	3.19
Intl Growth	145.47	153.13	- 0.37	0.38
North American	151.30	159.26†	- 1.15	1.64
Pelican	142.62	150.15†	- 0.78	3.16
Smaller Cos	73.05	76.89	- 0.34	2.82
Special Sits	91.20	96.00†	- 0.08	2.47
Tst of Inv Tsts	220.53	232.14	- 0.31	1.36

EVERMORE FUND MGMT LTD
0171 407 5966

Smaller Cos Inc	275.66	290.72†	- 0.07	1.46
Smaller Cos Acc	428.56	452.77†	- 0.13	1.49
Recovery	58.76	62.51	+ 0.05	1.70
Recovery Acc	60.77	64.59	+ 0.05	1.70

EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD
01392 412 144

Capital Growth	94.29	101.12†	- 0.04	..
Fd of Inv Tsts	53.30	56.85	+ 0.05	0.51
High Income #	38.75	41.53†	+ 0.05	11.08
Warrant	48.41	52.62†	+ 0.01	..
Zero Preference	45.04	47.79	+ 0.07	..

FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD
01273 226 707

Family Asset Tst	94.76	100.80†	+0.500	2.60
Unified Charities	313.30	333.29†	+1.700	2.36

FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD
Callers: Private Clients: 0800 414 161

Cash Fund				
Cash Fund	100.00	100.00	..	5.30
Bond Funds				
Intl Bond	29.22	30.71	- 0.05	5.14
Strategic Inc	37.39	39.63†	+ 0.05	5.67
Income Funds				
High Income	36.97	39.30†	+ 0.03	5.45
Income Plus	113.10	141.60†	+ 0.10	3.88
European Income	50.82	54.04	- 0.05	2.52
UK Div Gth	31.81	33.80†	+ 0.05	2.21
Equity Funds				
ASEAN	61.62	65.55	- 0.03	..
American	203.20	213.00	- 1.00	..
Asset Spec Sits	180.90	200.60	- 2.30	..
Japan Smaller Cos	33.39	35.55	- 0.43	..
European	235.10	250.00†	+ 0.10	0.54
European Opps	82.50	88.08	- 0.07	0.02
Global Pos	31.35	33.34	- 0.01	0.34
UK Growth	124.10	132.00	+ 0.80	1.48
Growth & Inc	180.30	197.80	+ 0.50	2.42
Intl PEP	48.79	51.88	+ 0.10	1.06
Japan Spec Sits	62.61	66.67	- 1.16	..
Japan	174.50	185.10	- 2.30	..
Managed Intl	361.10	383.20	- 2.40	0.49
Moneybuilder	67.73	72.02	- 0.11	..
Recovery	62.74	66.71	+ 0.13	1.62
South E Asia	188.40	201.00†	+ 1.20	0.97
Special Sits	731.30	777.80†	+ 2.20	0.57
Specialist Funds				
Case Accum Units	118.10	116.12	+ 0.02	5.30

FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD
0171 814 2700

Balanced #	152.48	155.10†	- 0.50	1.54
Fleming Pfl Inc #	97.05	98.36†	+ 0.20	2.82
Cap Plate	167.90	178.50	- 0.50	0.84
General Opps	148.10	148.70	+ 1.10	3.91
Growth Inc	38.23	38.98	- 0.01	0.94
Private Portfolio	496.40	504.80†	- 0.20	0.67

FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT
Dlg 01277 680 388 Adate/Val 01277 680 359

Euro Smlr Cos	155.20	165.00	- 0.30	0.38
Emrg Asian	138.90	150.30†	+ 0.10	..
High Income	21.50	23.04†	..	9.65
UK Income	115.70	123.50	+ 0.10	4.00
US Smaller Cos	440.30	470.90†	- 5.10	..

For Foster & Braithwaite see Quilter

FRANKLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD
Enq 0171 638 6300 Dealing: 0345 778511

American Growth	89.50	88.65	- 0.79	..
-do- Accum	89.50	98.93	- 0.79	..
Asian Smlr Cos	730.90	781.70†	- 7.60	..
-do- Accum	746.70	798.60†	- 7.80	..
Capital Tst	400.00	425.50†	- 0.10	1.50
-do- Accum	561.70	625.30†	- 0.10	1.50
Confl Smlr Cos	62.34	66.37	- 0.47	1.09
-do- Accum	69.32	70.61	- 0.56	1.09
Convertible	145.50	154.80	+ 0.10	5.60
-do- Accum	315.10	335.20	+ 0.30	5.60
Emerging Markets	67.86	72.29	- 0.13	0.30
-do- Accum	67.90	72.54	- 0.12	0.30
European	154.30	163.80	- 0.40	0.50
-do- Accum	163.50	173.30	- 0.40	0.50
Extra Income	393.90	419.00	- 0.70	4.45
-do- Accum	627.20	667.20	- 1.00	4.45
Financial	179.10	190.50	- 0.70	0.48
-do- Accum	180.40	202.50	- 0.70	0.45
Gilt Trust	93.51	95.09†	+ 0.19	8.78
-do- Accum	99.42	102.50†	+ 0.20	8.79
Wealth Fund Inc	270.80	288.30	- 1.50	..
-do- Accum	270.80	288.30	- 1.50	..
Income & Growth	236.00	251.10	- 0.90	3.61
-do- Accum	372.30	397.80	- 1.00	3.61
Intl Growth

صكذا من الاصل



■ FILM 1

In *Lone Star* the director John Sayles creates a fine drama of dark family secrets in a Rio Grande setting



■ FILM 2

. . . but *Jack* finds Robin Williams stranded in a miscalculated Francis Ford Coppola comedy

THE TIMES ARTS



■ FILM 3

Brothers in Trouble presents Sixties England through the eyes of illegal immigrants



■ FILM 4

. . . while a 1936 Polish classic, *Yiddle With His Fiddle*, resurfaces in the Barbican's Yiddish season

Noel's lousy party

Oasis, the 'world's best live act', died the death on MTV last night

Liam ain't gonna be with us tonight 'cause he's got a sore throat." This terse announcement by an apparently unperturbed Noel Gallagher prefaced Oasis's *Unplugged* performance, screened last night on MTV. As an explanation for what followed, it neatly blended the old maxim "the show must go on" with the Oasis philosophy of "under no circumstances say anything that could be construed as an apology".

As if to rub salt in the wound, the younger Gallagher was on prominent display, sitting in a balcony at the side of the Festival Hall stage, consoling himself with beer and cigarettes.

Oasis may be many things, but if there was one myth that this perfunctory performance surely debunked it is that they are one of the world's great live bands. The truly great live bands wouldn't go near a gig if their *drummer* was unwell, let alone the singer.

Rarely has a more undemonstrative group won access to the world's biggest stages, even with Liam on board. Without him the band's lack of charisma and stagecraft were painfully exposed.

Naturally, Noel knew the words and notes he was aiming for (after all, he wrote them). But his performance as stand-in singer was remarkable for its lack of resonance, betraying little involvement with the songs, and even less with his fellow musicians. His colourless tone was particularly noticeable on *Morning Glory*, and even the spine-tingling melody of *Live Forever* and the soul-searching lyrics of *Talk Tonight* were dispatched with an air of detachment.

The *Unplugged* format has a funny way of revealing what is at the core of a performer's art, and bands mess about with it at their peril. On this occasion it was not the talent of the Gallaghers so much as their overweening hubris that was plain for all to see.

DAVID SINCLAIR

Independent's day

CINEMA: *Lone Star* versus *Jack*; imagination and intelligence versus big budget. **Geoff Brown** has no doubt about the winner

Lone Star
Curzon West End
15, 135 mins
John Sayles explores the Rio Grande

Jack
Odeon Leicester Square
PG, 113 mins
Coppola reaches his second childhood

Brothers in Trouble
Metro, 15, 102 mins
Resonant drama about illegal Pakistani immigrants

Yiddle with His Fiddle
Barbican Cinema
92 mins
Famous Yiddish musical revived

Few American filmmakers look as keenly as John Sayles does at human life, at his country's history, and at cinema itself. Take the maverick independent's latest film, **Lone Star**, a richly textured epic exploring the ethnic mix of the Rio Grande. No visual flourishes mask empty contents here: the camera keeps close company with characters and settings. In an age of babble, Sayles allows his people to talk and think.

In *Lone Star* their minds are occupied by burdens from the past. Fittingly, we begin with the past being dug up. In the scrub of a deserted Army shooting range, two sergeants discover a skull, a mason's ring, and a sheriff's star. They belong, we discover, to a corrupt sheriff called Wade, who was run out of town by his successor, Buddy Deeds. Deeds's son Sam (played by Chris Cooper) is the current sheriff of Rio County, a man longing to escape his father's shadow. But wait. Sayles has other pasts to explore. There is Deeds's teenage sweetheart Pilar (Elizabeth Peña), a Mexican-American teacher, all too aware of ethnic tensions. At the Army post we find Colonel Delmore Payne, a fierce disciplinarian whose estranged father, Otis, runs the black community's bar.

This is epic stuff, similar in style to Sayles's multilayered portrait of urban conflicts, *City of Hope*. The camera swings between storylines, slipping between past and present without the benefit of a cut or a dissolve.

Not every plot thread convinces. Scenes devoted to the Paynes suffer from awkward dialogue (unusual with Sayles) and too much didactic intent. But the best stretches crackle with humour, and Sayles showers compassion on all comers, from an old Texas scallywag like Kris Kristofferson's Wade to the battle-scarred Mexican of Miriam Colon, almost on fire with bitterness.

But the biggest impact is made by Cooper, taciturn but tenacious as Sam Deeds, the sheriff sifting through the rubble of his family history. As he sifts, the film's message emerges, about building bridges and not letting the past dictate the present. Messages. Samuel Goldwyn thought, were best left to Western Union; but a performance like Cooper's — quiet, thoughtful, shaded with ambiguities — might have made Goldwyn change his mind.

Born seven months premature, young Jack Powell suffers from an ageing disorder. His cells develop at four times the normal rate. At the age of ten, he looks about 40, and is fit to be played by Robin Williams, dressed in assorted plaid shirts, jeans and trainers. But to most viewers of **Jack**, the lead character's medical condition will cause less concern than the health of the film's director.

His name is Francis Ford Coppola. He once made good, sometimes great, films, and even his failures were interesting. Until *Jack*, that is: a film so limp and mawkish that you don't know where to put yourself, except under the cinema seat or through the door marked EXIT.

Not that Coppola's technique is failing. *Jack* is a glossy package, impeccably professional in all departments. But no craftsmanship can hide the film's vacuous attempts to extract laughter and tears from Jack's plight as he gets stuck in a school desk, shows off his farts to a treehouse fraternity, and generally faces up to a telescoped life.

The film's failure is made the more embarrassing by the obvious presence of personal feelings. Coppola provides an on-screen dedication: "For Gia: 'When you see a shooting star. . .'" He is thinking of his son Gian Carlo, killed in 1986 in a boating accident at the age of 23. Making public entertainment from private grief is a hard and delicate art; and the story of *Jack* proves far too bland and shallow to allow genuine emotions to flourish.

At best the film offers comedy with a tender edge, as when sad Jack gets into a cardboard box and bounces down the stairs. Williams himself is equally boxed in by James DeMonaco and Gary Nadeau's script. Bereft of chances for verbal fireworks, he can only give us the fixed grin and twinkle of the little boy lost in a grown-up world.

Like Sayles, Coppola has a message, which he trumpets from beginning to end: our existence is fleeting and we must savour every moment.

True enough: but making, or watching, a soporific painkiller like *Jack* is not the best way to celebrate life.

Desperate to attract finance for **Brothers in Trouble**, the director Udayan Prasad once considered shifting the story from northern England to sunny California. Illegal Mexican immigrants would replace the illegal, hard-working Pakistanis packed into a house in the 1960s; and an American actress would strut her stuff as Mary, a prostitute who services the house, gets pregnant, and gives birth to turmoil.

Some of the themes in Robert Buckler's script may well have survived a transatlantic transplant. But we would have lost a rare chance to explore a hidden corner of British history. We would also have lost a visually compelling film about 17 lives spent huddled in stairwells or hidden in attics, the cramped spaces lit by candles for fear of attracting outside attention.

Excellent acting and a fine sense of character help to give the film its forward drive, and lighten the tone in a tale that could easily appear oppressive. Omar Puri lends genuine dignity to the role of Hussein Shah, the house leader; while Angeline Ball (familiar from *The Commitments*) gives a good floorshow as Mary, whose spark prompts the house to explode. But this is a film of ensemble acting and telling detail: of hunched shoulders and suspicious eyes, of figures wrapped in winter coats, scuttling along a pavement or dwarfed by factory walls.

Yiddle With His Fiddle is a title out of the history books: the first truly international hit of Yiddish cinema, filmed in Poland in 1936 with the American vaudevillian and radio personality Molly Picon cavorting in boy's clothes and singing the title song more than once. The film pokes its head out this month at the Barbican Cinema, where it forms the prime attraction of a Yiddish cinema season largely devoted to films of the 1930s and 1940s.

For anyone absorbed by Yiddish culture, *Yiddle* is essential viewing. Joseph Green, the director, fills the screen with drinking songs, wedding festivities and the inhabitants and houses of Kazimierz, a small, picturesque town on the Vistula. But nothing and no one dislodges Picon, waddling about with her bottom stuck out, peak cap askew, filtering her usual vaudeville routines through the simple story about a father and daughter who join up with itinerant musicians.

Those with only a passing interest in Yiddish culture may be less taken: judged purely as cinema, *Yiddle* is rudimentary. But it can still exert an exotic charm as a relic of a world long vanished.



Sam Deeds (Chris Cooper) knew him, Horatio, a fellow of infinite jest — or, at any rate, the catalyst for John Sayles's fine study of small-town people and their secrets, *Lone Star*

SNAP VERDICT

'Must be seen'

Every week, young film fans discuss the latest releases . . .

☐ ***LONE STAR***

Richard Wright, 20: It took me a while to get into this as I found it fairly confusing, but the atmosphere alone kept me hooked. Excellent.

Holly Peters, 20: I didn't think that this would be my type of film at all, but it was. The acting was great and the plot, despite being complicated, was gripping.

Ben Peters, 22: One of the best films of the year. Great plot, seedy characters, excellently photographed and with a fantastically eerie feel. Must be seen.

Lucy Knight, 22: I would recommend this to anybody — you'll walk out of the cinema feeling immensely satisfied that you've seen a really good film at last.

☐ ***JACK***

Richard: Reasonably funny, although Robin Williams was not up to his usual form.

Holly: I enjoyed this a lot, in the same way as I loved Tom Hanks in *Big*.

Ben: This was directed by someone called Francis Ford Coppola, which is strange, as someone with exactly the same name makes films that are good. This wasn't.

Lucy: Not too bad, but cheesy rather than tear-jerking.

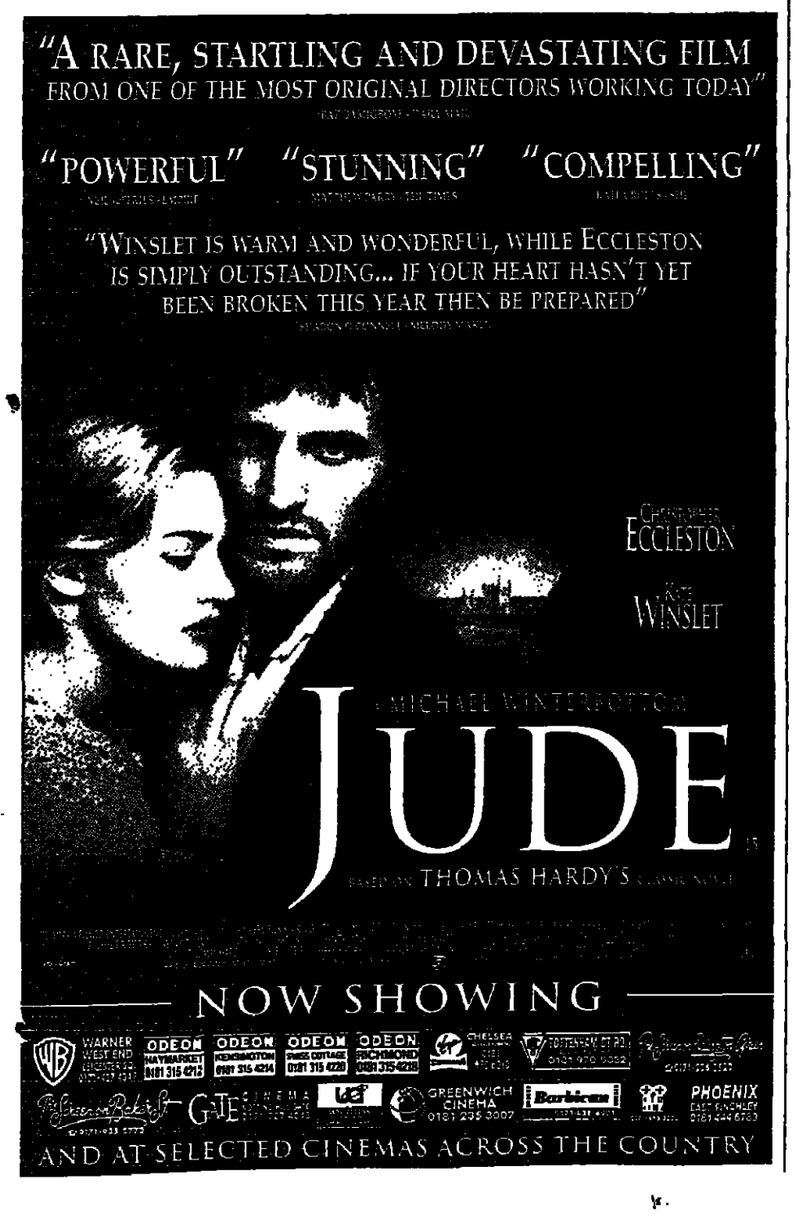
☐ ***BROTHERS IN TROUBLE***

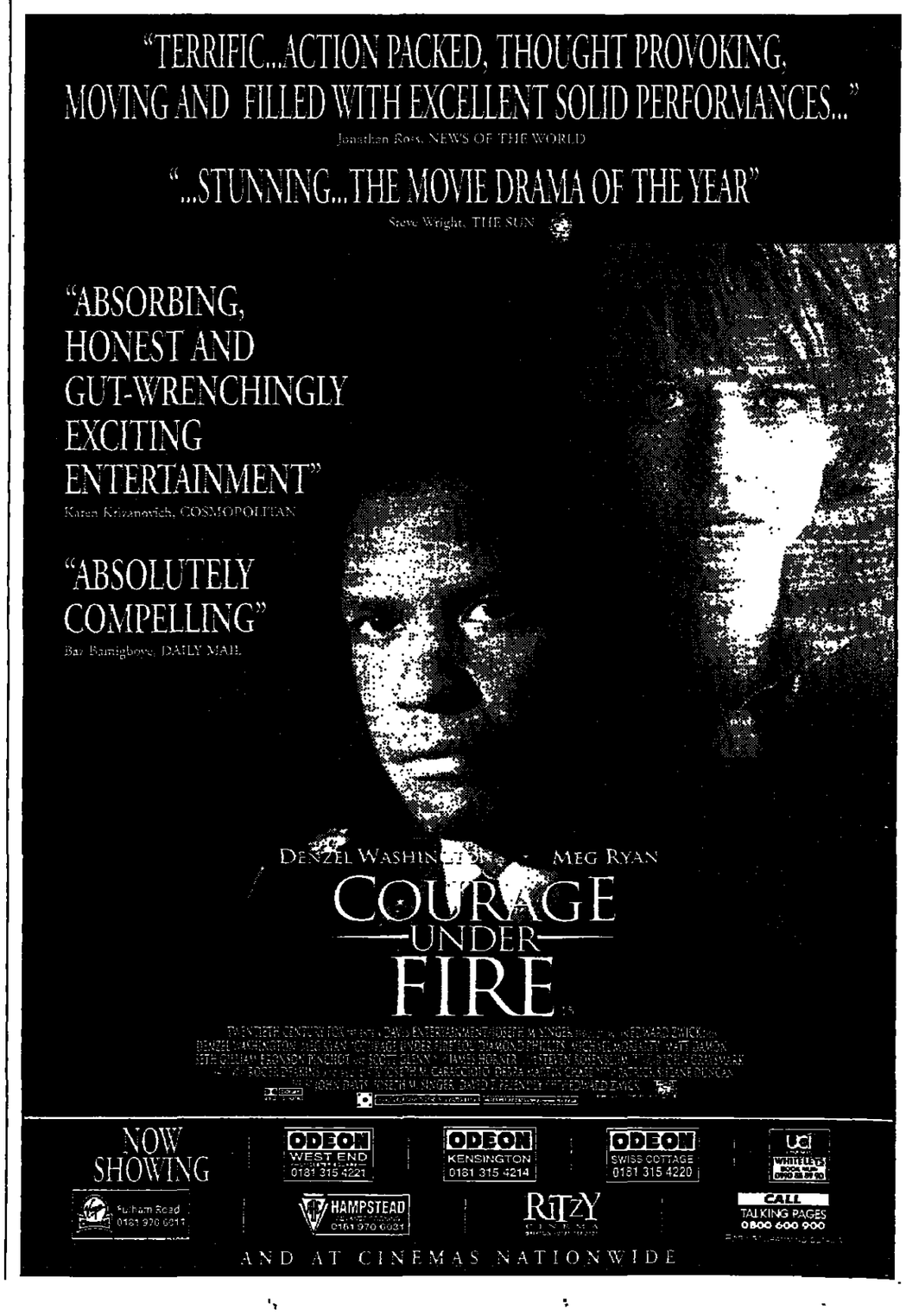
Richard: I looked at my watch a few times through this, but I didn't find it too boring.

Holly: Moving, and the cast was very strong. However, it dragged a bit, and I would only recommend it to those in a serious mood.

Ben: It's nice to see a British film which isn't about white people faffing around in pretty dresses at the turn of the century.

Lucy: The acting, setting and plot were all strong, but somehow I wasn't convinced.







■ CHOICE 1

Curtain up on Sam Shepard's passionate drama, *Fool for Love*

VENUE: Opens tonight, Donmar Warehouse



■ CHOICE 2

... while Opera North revives Deborah Warner's staging of *Wozzeck*

VENUE: Opens tonight, Grand Theatre, Leeds

THE TIMES ARTS



■ NEW VIDEOS

The archives are raided for the revealing, ten-hour documentary, *The Beatles Anthology*



■ NEW CDS

... and on disc the extraordinary music of Percy Grainger is the subject of a new collected edition



LONDON

FOOL FOR LOVE: Ian Brown directs Barry Lynch and Lorraine Ashbourne in Sam Shepard's fierce drama of love on the edge of the Mojave desert. With Gawn Grainger and Martin Marquez. **Donmar Warehouse**, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732) Opens tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm: mats Thurs and Sat, 4pm. Until November 30

GREAT ORCHESTRAS OF THE WORLD: One of Russia's most historic musical institutions, the **Kirov Orchestra**, makes its symphonic debut in London. The orchestra's principal conductor, Valery Gergiev, conducts a programme featuring works by Prokofiev and Tchaikovsky. **Barbican**, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891) 7.30pm. 🔊

JOAQUIN CORTES: The smouldering Spanish dancer returns to London for four performances only of his new show *Gipsy Passion*. Cortes, recently the subject of a BBC 2 documentary, fuses blues, jazz, rock'n'roll and flamenco in a stylish and savagely sensual way, uniquely his own. **Albert Hall**, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 8212) Tonight-Sun, 7.45pm 🔊

NUREMBERG: Edited by Richard Norton-Taylor, directed by Nicolas Kent, a strong and suspenseful account of the case against the Nazi leaders Goering, Rosenberg, Keitel and Speer. Performed by the actors who present *Srebrenica* earlier the same evening (See theatre guide below.) **Tricycle**, 269 Kilburn High Road, NW9 (0171-328 1000) Opens tonight, 8.45pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8.45pm: mats Wed (Oct 16), 2pm and Sat, 4pm

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM: **The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra** under the baton of Sir Simon Rattle performs a programme including works by Ravel, Szymanowski, Stravinsky and Borodin. Soloist is the acclaimed Norwegian pianist, Leif Ove Andsnes. **Symphony Hall**, Broad Street, (0121-212 3333) 7.30pm 🔊

DERBY: Aidan Healy draws on his brief but bloody career as a boxer for PoW!, the story of a former Olympic medallist's comeback fight. Directed by Penny Cresswell for Paines Plough. Touring to Blackpool, Huddersfield and 14 other venues. **Playhouse Studio**, Eagle Centre (01332 363275) Opens today, 3.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm: mat Sat (Oct 19), 2.45pm. Until October 26

HIGH WYCOMBE: The Rambert Dance Company kicks off its autumn tour with the world premiere of **Eidolon**, Kim Brandstrup's first ballet for the company. Also featuring Christopher Bruce's *Moonshine* and *Kol Simcha* by Didy Veldman. **Wycombe Swan**, St Mary Street, (01494 512000) Tonight-Sat, 8pm

LEEDS: Revival of **Opera North**'s powerful 1993 production of Alban Berg's tragic opera *Wozzeck*. Andrew Shore returns to sing the title role, with Dame Josephine Barstow making her role debut as his wife, Marie. Deborah Warner directs. **Grand Theatre**, 46 New Briggate, (0113 245 9351/4409711). Tonight and Sat, 7.15pm 🔊

LONDON GALLERIES

Anthony d'Offay: Ellen Gallagher (0171-499 4100) **British Library Galleries**: Theatrical Entertainments in 18th-Century London (0171-323 7111) **Cello Gallery**: John Whitall (0171-435 6660) . **The Gallery in Cork Street**: Robert Heindel (0171-287 8408) . . **Llewellyn Alexander**: Ron Bone and Austin Moseley (0171-620 1322) . **Museum of the Moving Image**: Visions of Future Images (0171-815 1350) . . . **Royal Academy**: Living Bridges (0171-439 7438) **Sackville**: Young British Artists VI (0171-624 8299) **Tate**: New Displays (0171-887 8000) . **Whitford Fine Art**: Gerald Laing (0171-930 8332)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
🔊 **Some seats available**
☐ **Seats at all prices**

■ **THE ALCHEMIST**: Simon Callow, Josie Lawrence and Tim Pigott-Smith in Bill Alexander's Jonson production from Birmingham Rep, set in a post-apocalyptic future. The clever effects needed some polish a month ago, and maybe they've now received them. **National (Olivier)**, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252) Tonight-Sat, 7.15pm, mat Sat, 2pm. In rep

🔊 **BY JEEVES**: Delightful musical creation by Alan Ayckbourn and Andrew Lloyd Webber, based on the Wodehouse heroes' first attempted 20 years ago, now entirely revised. **Lyric**, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045) Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm

☐ **CASH ON DELIVERY**: Comedy performer Bradley Walsh in his first leading West End role. Described as a belly laugh about benefit fraud, written by Michael Cooney and directed by his dad, Ray. **Whitehall**, Whitehall, SW1 (0171-369 1735). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 5.30pm and 8.30pm; mat Wed, 3pm.

🔊 **KINDERTRANSPORT**: Diana Quick and Jean Boht in Diane Samuels's moving drama about a Jewish girl who reached England from Nazi Germany but grew up in denial. Abigail Morris's award-winning production in the West End at last. **Vaudeville**, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987) Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm

☐ **LAUGHTER ON THE 23RD FLOOR**: Neil Simon's very funny account of working among a team of scriptwriters for comedian Sid Caesar back in the 1950s. Gene Wilder plays Sid. **Queen's**, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5040) Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat 4pm.

☐ **THE LODGER**: Murray Melvin (back on the Stratford stage after 33 years) guides us into the relationship between the man thought to be Jack the Ripper and his landlady (Lynn Farleigh). **Theatre Royal**, Gerry Raffles Square, E15 (0181-534 0310) Mon-Sat, 8pm.

☐ **SREBRENICA**: Powerful excerpts from this summer's war crimes trial at the Hague: the ethnic cleansing amounting to genocide committed by Bosnian Serbs a year ago. Nicolas Kent directs the actors who also perform in *Nuremberg*, the same evening. **Tricycle**, 269 Kilburn High Rd, NW9 (0171-328 1000) Preview tonight, 7pm. Opens tomorrow, 7pm. Then Mon-Fri, 7pm, Sat, 6.30pm: mat Wed (Oct 23), 2pm. Until October 26.

☐ **UNCLE VANYA**: Bill Bryden's starry Chichester cast: Frances Barber, Constance Cummings, Trevor Eve, Derek Jacobi, Peggy Mount, Imogen Stubbs and Richard Johnson. **Albery**, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm. Until November 16

☐ **WHEN WE ARE MARRIED**: Dawn French, Alison Steadman and Leo McKern head the splendid cast of Jude Kelly's production of the Priestley evergreen, first seen at Chichester. **Savoy**, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888). Tue-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed, Sat, 3pm

LONG RUNNERS

☐ **Blood Brothers**: Phoenix (0171-369 1733) . . . ☐ **Buddy**: Strand (0171-930 8800) . . 🔊 **Cats**: New London (0171-405 0072) . . . ☐ **The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)**: Criterion (0171-369 1737) . . . 🔊 **Les Misérables**: Palace (0171-434 0909) 🔊 **Miss Saigon**: Drury Lane (0171-494 5400) . . . ☐ **The Mousetrap**: St Martin's (0171-836 1443) . . . 🔊 **Oliver!**: Palladium (0171-494 5020) . ■ **The Phantom of the Opera**: Her Majesty's (0171-494 5400) . . . ☐ **The Woman in Black**: Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

NEW RELEASES

◆ **COURAGE UNDER FIRE** (15): Denzel Washington searches for truth in the Gulf War. Half-way intelligent drama, with Meg Ryan. Director, Edward Zwick. **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** 🔊 (0990 888990) **Virgin Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636)

◆ **JUDE** (15): Vigorously depressing version of Hardy's novel about dashed hopes and illicit love, with Christopher Eccleston and Kate Winslet. Director, Michael Winterbottom. **ABC Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Barbican** 🔊 (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Gate** 🔊 (0171-727 4043) **Odeons: Haymarket** (01426 915353) **Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** 🔊 (0990 888990) **Virgin Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Warner** 🔊 (0171-437 4343)

LETTERS FROM THE EAST: Inert drama about an Estonian-born woman searching for her mother. With Ewa Fröling. Director, Andrew Grieve. **NFT** (0171-928 3232) 🔊

◆ **THE MUTTY PROFESSOR** (12): Lively if vulgar reworking of the old Jerry Lewis film, with Eddie Murphy as the misfit professor who creates a sleek alter ego. Director, Tom Shadyac. **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Empire** 🔊 (0990 888 990) 🔊 **MGM Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys**

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

🔊 (0990 888990) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** 🔊 (0171-434 0031)

TOUCH OF EVIL (12): Revival of Orson Welles's flamboyant thriller from 1958 about murky happenings on the Mexican border. With Charlton Heston, Welles himself, Janet Leigh and Marlene Dietrich. **Lumiere** (0171-836 0691)

CURRENT

L'AMORE MOLESTO (15): A woman grapples with her mother's bizarre death. Compelling and stylish psychological drama from Italian director Mario Martone. **MGM Swiss Centre** (0171-439 4470)

FALLEN ANGELS (15): Lonely lives mesh in a Hong Kong that never sleeps. Extreme, stylised drama from cult director Wong Kar-Wai. **Curzon Phoenix** (0171-369 1721)

◆ **JANE EYRE** (PG): Decent but bloodless adaptation of the novel, with Charlotte Gainsbourg and William Hurt. **Barbican** 🔊 (0171-638 8891) **Notting Hill Coronet** 🔊 (0171-727 5705) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Hill** 🔊 (0171-435 3366) **Virgins: Fulham Rd** (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Warner W E** (0171-437 4343)

◆ **LAST MAN STANDING** (18): Bruce Willis plays two bootleg gangs against each other. Fancy-looking movie pastiche from director Walter Hill. **ABC Tottenham Ct Rd** (0171-636 6148) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **MGM Baker St** (0171-935 9772) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Plaza** 🔊 (0990 888990) **UCI Whiteleys** 🔊 (0990 888990) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** (0171-434 0031) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

THE ROCK (18): Belligerent action movie set on Alcatraz, with Nicolas Cage, Sean Connery and Ed Harris. **Odeon Mezzanine** 🔊 (01426 915683) **Warner** 🔊 (0171-437 4343)

◆ **STEALING BEAUTY** (15): Light and enjoyable Bertolucci film about an American teenager's sexual flowering in Tuscany. With Liv Tyler, Jeremy Irons and Sinead Cusack. **ABC Shaftesbury Avenue** (0171-836 6279) **Metro** (0171-437 0757) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **Virgin Chelsea** (0171-352 5096)

◆ **A TIME TO KILL** (15): White lawyer defends black man, and the Ku Klux Klan wake up. Powerful adaptation of John Grisham's novel. **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** 🔊 (0990 888990) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Trocadero** 🔊 (0171-434 0031) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

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NEW ON VIDEO



REX FEATURES

Not about to let it be: fans will want to buy *The Beatles Anthology* on video for the previously unseen footage

■ **THE BEATLES ANTHOLOGY**
EMI, 12, 1995

YOU may well be feeling Beatled to death, but the media celebrations continue nonetheless with this ten-hour, eight-pack video edition of the absorbing documentary series directed by Geoff Wonfor. The timespan stretches from the Fab Four's births in wartime Liverpool to the follies and ruptures of the late 1960s. Wonderful archive treasures blend with reflective interviews, and the music keeps on coming. Television showed the abbreviated version: this one includes much new material.

■ **A NIGHT IN CASABLANCA**
Connoisseur, U, 1946

THE last film with all three Marx Brothers at the centre is burdened by dreary direction and one of the world's most inappropriate scores for a comic movie. The script warms up old situations, and the old magic peeps through here and there as Groucho's hotel manager surveys his guests and crosses words with Sig Ruman's Nazi. Gagman Frank Tashlin, trained in cartoons, adds extra sparkle to Harpo's routines.

■ **HAMLET**
BMG Video, E, 1964

HOW many Theatrofilms in Electronovision have you seen? Exactly. The novelty did not catch on. But at least we are left with this curious record of a live performance of John Gielgud's production at the Lunt-Fontanne Theatre in New York. The Electronovision image tends towards the dark and fuzzy, but there is no hiding Richard Burton as the Prince of Denmark, dressed like the others in 1960s casuals and indulging in a little too much Welsh ranting. The cast includes Hume Cronyn as Polonius, and Eileen Herlie as Gertrude; Gielgud himself supplies the Ghost's voice.

■ **THE DRUM**
Carlton U, 1938

A. E. W. MASON'S doughty tale of derring-do on India's northwest frontier in the days of the Raj, convincingly recreated in the hills beyond Harlech and shot in splendid, eye-popping colour. Roger Livesey is in jovial form as Captain Carruthers; Raymond Massey curdles the blood as the usurper Ghul Khan; and Sabu is simply Sabu as the young prince. Other Alexander Korda productions newly available include *The Thief of Baghdad*, *The Ghost Goes West* and *The Man Who Could Work Miracles*.

■ **SUDDEN DEATH**
CIC, 18, 1996

THE American Vice-President is taken hostage during a Pittsburgh hockey game. Big deal, you might think. But duty fireman Jean-Claude Van Damme takes it seriously enough to thrust the villains inside meat grinders. Director Peter Hyams pushes things along efficiently enough, though a monotonously sarcastic villain (Powers Boothe) and the sheer density of the action clichés limit the excitement on offer. Available to rent.

GEOFF BROWN

NEW CLASSICAL CDs: Angels and Saxons; Heppner burns in *Fidelio*; a grip on Grainger

VOCAL

Hilary Finch

■ **CHANT IN HONOUR OF ANGLO-SAXON SAINTS**
Magnificat/Cave
Cantoris Griffin
CGCD 4004★★★

AS THE chanting monks of Europe brace themselves for renewed seasonal promotion, here is a home-grown disc with real character and a strong *raison d'être*. Magnificat, a five-year-old choir of former Oxford and Cambridge singers directed by Philip Cave, give supple yet sturdily English performances of plainchant transcribed from English medieval manuscripts celebrating the lives of local saints.

Their chronological programme traces the history of the English church and people, Bede-style, from St Gregory and his initial mission to convert the English ("not Angles but Angels") to Ethelwald, Bishop of Winchester, whose great learning ensured that much of the music was written down in the first place. In between come gently and expressively articulated chants telling of the miracles of St Cuthbert and the glory of King Edmund, invincible martyr of East Anglia, who had to contend with the Norse invasions which were also to destroy Cuthbert's priory in Lindisfarne.

OPERA

John Higgins

■ **BEETHOVEN**
Fidelio
Voigt/Norberg-Schulz/Heppner/Schade/Hölle/von Kannen/Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra/Davis
RCA 099026 68344 2 (2 CDs)★★

NO FRIVOLITY mars Sir Colin Davis's *Fidelio*. The emotions are elevated and all roads lead to the serenity achieved in the final scene by Leonore and Florestan. On the way comes much marvellous playing from his Munich orchestra, with the finest left for *Leonore No 2* added at the close. At 15 minutes, it is not so much a *bonne bouche* as a full course and it demonstrates the set's high technical quality.

Not all Davis's cast match his aspirations. The three German bass-baritones are only moderate. Gunther von Kannen's Pizarro is rough and unmenacing; Matthias Hölle is content to leave Rocco as a comfortable old body; and Thomas Quasthoff could have made more of Fernando's last-minute appearance. Elizabeth Norberg-Schulz and Michael Schade show better as the two juveniles in Rocco's prison.

Parts of Act I lack vitality, a quality injected into the set by the arrival of Ben Heppner's Florestan. His opening cry of anguish and the whole of the following aria bring back memories of his Canadian compatriot, Jon Vickers, greatest among recent Florestans.

Heppner keeps up the temperature in fine heroic style. At times he is matched by Deborah Voigt's Leonore. She has the right womanly quality, but is short of the radiance of some of her predecessors in the role. *Abscheulicher* is the test and here the orchestra outperforms the soprano.

ORCHESTRAL

Barry Millington

■ **GRAINGER**
The Grainger Edition, Vol 1: Orchestral Works
BBC Philharmonic/Hickox
Chandos CHAN9493★★★

AWARENESS of Percy Grainger's unique, unpredictable and hugely imaginative oeuvre is increasing by leaps and bounds. Chandos's recently launched Grainger Edition, which will feature all his works, often in multiple versions, will surely put this fascinating composer on the musical map as never before. Nor could the series be in better hands: Richard Hickox, who is responsible for the orchestral works, is both an enthusiastic advocate and a persuasive interpreter.

The most notable pieces on the first disc are the exuberantly energetic *English Dance* and the *Suite: In a Nutshell*, with its disturbing, Ivesian distortions of the pastoral idiom. My own favourites are the unashamedly sentimental *Harvest Hymn* and *Colonial Song*, the latter with gushing Hollywood-drenched climax. There are also three Kipling-influenced scores (*There were Three Friends*, *Fisher's Boarding House* and *We Were Dreamers*); *Blithe Bells*, an outrageous improvisation on Bach's *Sheep may Safely Graze*, worthy of Stokowski; the familiar *Shepherd's Hey*, and more besides.

Excellent notes are provided by Barry Peter Ould, the consultant for the series. Definitely one to watch.

★ *Worth hearing*
★★ *Worth considering*
★★★ *Worth buying*

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THEATRES



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■ MUSIC

Anne Sofie von Otter carries off a major honour at *Gramophone*'s annual awards



■ THEATRE 1

It's a strange, compelling evening of Greek drama, as the Romanians stage *Les Danaides* in Birmingham

THE TIMES ARTS



■ THEATRE 2

Lack of tension mars the drama of *The Lodger*, a 'Jack the Ripper' potboiler in Stratford East



■ OPERA

Peter Hall's fine production of *La traviata* opens Glyndebourne Touring Opera's season in style

MUSIC: Today's *Gramophone* awards confound the prophets of doom, says **John Allison**

Still a few spins left in the classics

When the 1996 *Gramophone* awards are presented at the Savoy today during the classical record industry's biggest annual party, few of the 400 guests will be worrying about the crisis supposedly besetting the business. For a couple of hours they will be able to focus — champagne permitting — on the good news: a clutch of superb recordings covering every corner of the repertory.

The awards, instituted by *Gramophone* magazine with a low-key event 19 years ago, have grown beyond recognition. Their clout extends well beyond *Gramophone*'s readership — winning recordings are signposted in shops both here and abroad — and in a hype-led market they have come to be trusted. More widely influential than the Grammies, they concentrate almost exclusively on music and performance, without the categories such as Best Sleeve Design that turn up elsewhere. The arbitrary selection of one disc above fine competitors can be unfair, but if there have to be awards, they might as well be these.

> "Small labels now lead many fields"

Record companies, not all noted for self-effacement, can be justifiably proud of winning — especially this year, since the adjudication process was more democratic than ever. Voting forms have always been circulated to the panel of *Gramophone* critics, but in the early years the companies themselves were invited to nominate recordings; this sometimes resulted in 900 titles being submitted by record executives afraid of leaving out an over-sensitive artist. Nowadays the editorial panel trawls through the year's issues and chooses about 30 discs per category, but all the critics are at liberty to add to the list, and all have a vote once a panel of specialists has reduced each category to a manageable half-dozen.

But until now the Artist, Debut Artist and Record of the Year awards have all been in the gift of the editorial department. This year six of the magazine's leading critics met with the editors to elect these winners — and, in the spirit of *Gramophone*-style glasnost, allowed me in.

What this more open process disclosed was healthy, heated debate and a lack of consensus, but the secret ballot prevented the more powerful personalities from bullying others. There is always a certain inevitability about prolific recording artists winning the big prize, but all these categories require the comparison of unlikes — a flaw in the BBC Young Musician competition, too — and the nominations ranged widely. At least someone was tactful enough to place Roberto Alagna and Angela Gheorghiu on separate lists (Artist of the Year and Debut Artist of the Year respectively), though they would doubtless have won something had there been an "Item of the Year" category.

Which brings us back to the record industry's identity crisis, although Alagna and Gheorghiu are not the only artists who this year seem to have performed more in the recording studio than in public. Should records reflect faithfully what is happening in the live musical world, or can they be an "art form" in themselves? Lines get blurred when opera recordings are cast with stars who have never undertaken roles on the stage, or the prospect of a lucrative recording apparently affects casting or programming.

The power of the big record companies is one of the subjects that excite such prophets of doom as Norman Lebrecht, and with some justification. But the major labels have less control of the market than before: EMI, for instance, is making 47 classical records this year, about half the number it released five years ago, while independent labels are proliferating. Some of the small companies may save money by employing obscure radio orchestras and unknown artists, but others — such as Hyperion, Chandos and Collins Classics in this country — use their modest budgets imaginatively to record rare repertory.

Indeed, the amount of music available on disc must be one sign of health in the industry. When CDs first appeared, nobody thought the new format would match the LP for its range of works, but the recorded repertory is now wider than ever, not least in contemporary music, where previously a living composer had to be a Very Big Name to get into the catalogue. Too much standard repertory is still being duplicated, but no longer at the expense of the neglected works that are being recorded, often methodically, for the first time. Historical issues make up another growth area, and companies have been quick to respond to the rich archives from behind the old Iron Curtain.

While cutbacks among the big companies do suggest a certain unease in the record industry, it is not the only part of the music scene in flux. Old hands in the business say "Crisis? What crisis?" and argue that it has always been unstable. But in a changing market, it is the big companies which are in danger of being left behind, unable to react quickly because they are tied to contracts negotiated years ago that may also run beyond 2000. It is hard not to detect a sense of panic in the pop-style marketing of chanting monks and wet-T-shirted violinists.

Most of *Gramophone*'s readers occupy the more serious end of the market where sales are slow. Record companies advertise heavily in the magazine, and each depends on the other. But *Gramophone*'s editorial director, Christopher Pollard, defends his position: "A reader expects *Gramophone* to be the best informed medium on the subject. I don't believe that we could publish a magazine like *Gramophone* if we didn't expose ourselves to the industry's hopes and aspirations, its disappointments and frustrations."

By "frustrations" he means the complaints that come when unfavourable reviews are published. "We have very naked discussions, because they sincerely believe that their artists have been misinterpreted. But they trade on the integrity of the magazine every time it says something positive, so they have to accept the negative reviews. I believe there are still people in certain companies who haven't forgiven me for what we said about a record ten years ago."

JIM RAKETE/PHOTO SELECTION



After heated debate behind not-quite-closed doors, Anne Sofie von Otter is today named *Gramophone* magazine's Artist of the Year

AND THE WINNERS ARE . . .

Lifetime Achievement: Lord Menuhin
Artist of the Year: Anne Sofie von Otter
Young Artist of the Year: David Pyatt, horn
Engineering: Sibelius Symphony No 5, Lahti SO/Vanska, BIS
Video: Yehudi Menuhin — The Violin of the Century, EMI
Best Selling Record: Lesley Garrett, Soprano in Red, Silva
Classic FM People's choice: Bryn Terfel, The Vagabond, DG
Baroque (non vocal): Christophe Coin, Giovanni Antonini, Vivaldi Concertos, Teldec
Baroque (vocal): Andreas Scholl, Chiara Banchini, Vivaldi Stabat Mater, Harmonia Mundi
Chamber: Mosaiques Quartet, Haydn String Quartets, Auvidis Astrée
Choral: John Eliot Gardiner, Grainger Songs and Dancing Ballads, Philips
Concerto: Stephen Hough, CBSO/Foster, Piano Concertos, Hyperion
Contemporary: Elgar Howarth, Birtwistle's Gawain, Collins Classics
Early Music: Orlando Consort, Dunstable Sacred Choral Works, Metronome
Early Opera: Nicholas McGegan, Handel's Ariodante, Harmonia Mundi
Historic non vocal: Walter Gieseking, Debussy Complete Piano Works, EMI
Historic Vocal: Lucrezia Bori, Victor Recordings (1925-37), Romophone
Instrumental: Mikhail Pletnev, Scarlatti Keyboard Sonatas, Virgin Classics
Music Theatre: Eric Stern, Gershwin's Oh Kay!, Nonesuch
Opera: Valery Gergiev, Prokofiev's The Fiery Angel, Philips
Orchestral: Franz Welser-Möst, Schmidt Symphony No 4, EMI
Solo Vocal: Ian Bostridge, Schubert's Die schöne Müllerin, Graham Johnson (Hyperion)

Be gentle, it's her first time

PETER HALL'S production of *La traviata* (1987) was always one of his best, and it is good to see it back to open Glyndebourne Touring Opera's autumn season. Or some of it, at least. John Gunter's sets and costumes still look very handsome, but a touring version has to do without the *ballets-roses* nymphets entertaining the dirty old men at Flora's party.

Still, there is enough suggestion of sleaze at curtain-rise, with women smoking cigarettes and a punter inspecting the goods on offer before paying for them, for us to know exactly what sort of society we are entering. Otherwise, the producer Aidan Lang follows the outlines of the Hall staging, while rejecting much of its detail.

Judith Howarth was singing her first Violetta. She has so much

OPERA

La traviata
Glyndebourne

going for her — all the notes, the *physique du rôle* — that it is hard to say precisely why the first night fell a little flat. The first act goes well, and will go even better when she sharpens her coloratura to serve the drama; as all too few Violettas can, she manages to suggest how she earns a living, her brittle hardness giving way to hysteria and self-disgust in *Sempre libera*. The agonies of the death scene are equally vividly presented. But what comes in between is at this stage a fairly blank canvas. She could afford, perhaps, to disobey the director and externalise the emotion, and she could make the words do more of the work.

She was variably partnered. Paul Nilon is alive to every facet of Alfredo's character: he really *thinks* the words and notes, and turns the thoughts into musical phrases that grip the imagination in a truly three-dimensional impersonation. In contrast, Robert Hayward is one of those Germonts who seek to sway Violetta with a sheer barrage of sound. The evening gains from having experienced stage animals such as Robert Poulton (Baron), Geoffrey Dolton (Marquis) and Alan Oke (Gaston) in support.

The score (lazily cut, black mark) is very well conducted by Ivor Bolton. The gambling scene goes especially well and the preludes never drag. Verdi with muscle, which is as it should be.

RODNEY MILNES

THEATRE: Modern conclusion to an Ancient Greek tragedy left in the lap of sadistic gods; Jack the Ripper bores audiences to death in the East End

Send in the bald, naked husbands

Les Danaides
National Indoor Arena, Birmingham

AT THE end of this strange, compelling evening the Greek gods — waxen, white-suited figures — warn against the perils of hubris. They appear to be referring to the Danaides, a vast phalanx of virgin sisters who have been spectacularly punished for murdering an equally vast phalanx of unwanted husbands. But there was a side of me that wondered if their words weren't also aimed at Silviu Purcarete, the Romanian director giving Aeschylus's *Danaides* what has been incautiously described as its world premiere.

Actually, only the first part of the *Danaide* trilogy survives. *The Suppliants*, as it's called, is almost never performed, partly because it is so inconclusive. Danaos's 50 daughters, sickened by the idea of marrying their 50 first cousins, flee from Egypt to sanctuary in Argos. Their would-be spouses then arrive by ship and, after sending a herald to terrorise them, beat a retreat. And that is that.

What happened in the play's two sequels? Nobody really knows; but presumably the Egyptians massacred the Argives, got married and were killed by their wives. Much was doubtless made of Hypermestra, the only Danaide to spare her husband, and Lynceus, the lucky survivor. What seems certain is that Aeschylus's denouement was upbeat, reverent, and altogether different to the one imposed on him by Purcarete, who makes little of Hypermestra, less of Lynceus, but a lot of gods who treat the poor Danaides with the gloating sadism of SS troops.

DONALD COOPER



Some of the 50 ill-fated would-be husbands in Silviu Purcarete's *Les Danaides*

Aeschylus doubtless regarded the Danaide invasion as a formative moment in what would become Greek civilisation. As his programme-note suggests, Purcarete thinks of it as one of the founding myths of a suffering, divided Europe. That is as may be. What is certain, though, is that he does some magical things with the French-speaking chorus of 100 he has carted through Europe and is now taking to the Dublin Theatre Festival via Birmingham and Glasgow.

The 50 Danaides could look ridiculous in their long blue costumes, especially as they carry what look either like white suitcases or bits of Berlin Wall, depending on whether these are being used as picnic baskets or barricades. Similarly with 50 wooers who come with orange skirts and bald heads, like Hare Krishna hoodlums. But then the women flutter, scurry, mew like seagulls and fall like dominoes. Meanwhile, great swaths of men aggressively frolic, caw like rooks and collapse en masse, knives in their foreheads.

Purcarete's gods may come more from Euripides, Beckett and Kafka than Aeschylus. But there is something innately thrilling in the sheer presence of a 100-person chorus. And Purcarete drills it so deftly that you cannot doubt its menace, its vulnerability, or whatever he wants. That is Aeschylean enough for me.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

A non-ripping yarn

The Lodger
Theatre Royal, Stratford East

THIS limping drama purports to probe the emotional recesses of a woman who continues to shelter a sinister man long after she suspects him of being Jack the Ripper. Patrick Prior has drawn the play from the celebrated novel by Mrs Belloc Lowndes, never out of print since she penned her probings in 1913.

There is psychological acuity in her treatment of the heroine, the grimly repressed Mrs Bunting, formerly in service but now running a lodging-house. Fiercely snobbish, she resists the accumulating evidence that convinces even her husband that the police should be told of their lodger's night-time walks, the rubber-soled shoes he tries to throw away after the police discover the murderer's footprints (nice period word), and his habit of going down to the cellar to dispose of unspecified matter in the furnace.

Mr Sleuth, as this character is oddly named, though not with any deeper meaning attached, is a gentleman, and a gentleman could not slit a girl from neck to waist and spread her insides around the East End. And even if he did, well, he is a gentleman, and ex-servants never lose the erotic thrill that comes of being close to men of a superior class.



Landlady Lynn Farleigh and Murray Melvin

This seems to be how Mrs Belloc Lowndes saw the situation, and it is how Lynn Farleigh plays Mrs Bunting, snapping at her husband (Alan Ford) for lacking social aspirations, pressing the scarf dropped by Mr Sleuth (John Labanowski) to her bosom; now clamouring to tell her story, now pursing her lips in a brief resolve to say no more.

These indecisions on her part are expressed within the framing device, in which she interrupts a show being presented at Madame Tussaud's by Murray Melvin. Dapper and prissy, he nudges her recollections, hands her props, and accidentally strides off stage into the scenery and has to reappear and exit again.

The trouble is that, even though Shirley Thompson's violin buzzes away in the orchestra pit to indicate menace, the events intended to embody this are either fragmentary or plonkingly specific. Jenny Tiramani's revolving set creates a Victorian interior from no more than a red damask curtain and a pair of chairs; Philip Hedley's direction uses the revolve to increase alarm; but the play is neither tense enough nor dense enough to nourish the imagination.

JEREMY KINGSTON

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Alan Bullock on a re-examination of the German resistance to Hitler, doomed by lack of cohesion and the Führer's power and luck

For the sake of the nation

PLOTTING HITLER'S DEATH
The German Resistance to Hitler, 1933-45
By Joachim Fest
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20
ISBN 0 297 92774 4

Between 1938 and 1944 as many as 15 attempts were made to assassinate Hitler. In only two cases, however, was he in danger and the final attempt, on July 20, 1944, not only failed but led to sweeping arrests and the execution of many of those involved.

What difference it would have made if Hitler had been killed is impossible to say. What was certain was that, if the plot failed, those who had attempted to alter the course of history would be condemned by most Germans as traitors and dismissed outside Germany as irrelevant.

Joachim Fest believes that is too simple and, in a book originally addressed to a German readership and translated here by Bruce Little, re-examines the history of the German Resistance with the object not of adding to what is already known about it, but of looking at it in a different context.

Instead of concentrating his attention on the events of July 20, 1944, Fest shows this to have been a last, despairing attempt in a succession of such plots, beginning with the plan to seize Hitler in September 1938 and so prevent war. This was undercut by Britain and France accepting the partition of Czechoslovakia by the Munich Agreement.

Those who became involved with the Resistance put themselves at risk, day and night, in a society permeated by the Gestapo and its informers. They are drawn by Fest as a loosely connected collection of individuals, with very different views (for example, on the use of violence), and motivated by a revolt of conscience, a matter of personal character, rather than a unifying ideology. The only thing they shared was their detestation of the evil regime under which they lived and of the man who personified it.

Much of the time was spent in debating the principles on which a future Germany would be created after the Nazi regime had been demolished. There was no agreement on going beyond that and either arresting or killing Hitler. Those prepared to consider that ran up against the formidable protection provided by the SS and Hitler's own incredible luck.

Only the Army could carry out a *coup d'état*, and it was among a group of younger officers, particularly those holding staff and intelligence appointments, that such action was discussed. Their hope both between 1938 and 1939, before the defeat of France, and between 1942 and 1944, after Stalingrad forced the Germans into retreat, was to persuade one of the generals holding command over troops to act. None would take the risk. Only then, in a gesture close to despair, with Germany facing defeat and the Gestapo closing in on the conspirators, did the 37-year-old officer Count Claus Schenk von Stauffenberg decide to act on his own.

IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM



Hitler, with Mussolini, inspects the damage done to his headquarters by the bomb of July 20, 1944

Fest understands the bitterness the conspirators felt at their "betrayal" — as they saw it — by the Western powers, particularly the British, who made no response to their approaches. But he sees that this was an example of their basic mistake, making their actions dependent on events they could neither foresee nor control. "In the fall of 1938, they made their *coup* contingent on Hitler's going to war and on a firm response from Britain and France. Later they made their activities dependent on Hitler's victories and defeats: victories, they felt, made him popular and therefore unassailable, while defeats laid them, his internal enemies, open to accusations of abetting the downfall of their own country. The conspirators did not overcome this basic flaw until shortly before July 20, 1944."

In the end, the whole story of the German Resistance is one of failure. But suppose one accepts, as Fest does, that it is virtually impossible to overthrow a totalitarian regime from the inside, especially one as powerful as Nazi Germany, then a different picture emerges. It is no longer the record of failure that matters: "The particular heroism of the German Resistance resides precisely in the hopelessness of the conspirators' position. It was no longer success or failure that was decisive. All that remained was to leave a dramatic sign disavowing Hitler and everything his regime stood for, '*coûte que coûte*' — 'whatever the cost'. The purpose of July 20 was the gesture itself; it was its own justification."

This view is supported by the trial. Six hundred were arrested and many of them subjected to brutal tortures. Time and again, however, those wanted by the police gave themselves up, in the belief that the show trial which Hitler planned could be used as a forum for denouncing the Nazis. Defying the bullying of the judge, the odious Freisler, the prisoners in the dock succeeded so well that on August 17 Hitler forbade any further reporting of the trials, or any mention of the executions.

It is impossible to say how far Joachim Fest's revisionist plea will alter general opinion in Germany where it is "virtually lost to history". But for myself I have no doubt that he is right. No one put it better than Henning von Tresckow, one of the officers who never wavered. He took his own life rather than waiting to have all he knew about the Resistance extracted from him by torture and his last words were written down by a fellow conspirator, Fabian von Schlabrendorff: "Now they will all fall upon us and cover us with abuse. But I am convinced, now as much as ever, that we have done the right thing. I believe Hitler to be the arch-enemy, not only of Germany, but of the entire world ... Just as God once promised Abraham that He would spare Sodom if only ten just men could be found in the city, I hope that, for our sake, he will not destroy Germany. No one among us can complain about his death, for whoever joined our ranks put on the poisoned shirt of Nessus. A man's moral worth is established only at the point where he is prepared to give his life for his convictions."

These words stand as an epitaph for those who, like Tresckow and Stauffenberg, had the courage, despite their failure, to maintain in the name of Germany their repudiation of Hitler and the Third Reich.

Lord Bullock is founding Master of St Catherine's College, Oxford, and the author of Hitler and Stalin: Parallel Lives *(Fontana).*

The toils and troubles of the chattering class

Howard Davies on the caustic return of a novelist who doubts we could construct a just society

THE WITCH OF EXMOOR
By Margaret Drabble
Viking, £16
ISBN 0 670 87276 8



Drabble: lifting the veil

After five years' silence Margaret Drabble has returned with a bang. *The Witch of Exmoor* is a novel about social justice. In chapter one — a family reunion — the *dramatis personae* discuss John Rawls's *A Theory of Justice*. They play a dinner party game called "The Veil of Ignorance". In it, you have to work out "the kind of society which you would be willing to accept if you didn't in advance know your own place in it". You have to imagine yourself in "the original position of choice" where you don't know if you will be rich or poor, influential or powerless, talented or underprivileged.

Drabble — whose authorial voice is powerfully present throughout — does not seek to elaborate the rules of her own just society; nor do her characters articulate theirs. That is perhaps fortunate from the standpoint of readability. But the plot offers a kind of running commentary on the extent to which contemporary British society matches up to this testing criterion, or is, instead, constructed only for the benefit of the cosseted middle class.

The witch of the title is Frieda Haxby, an elderly writer self-exiled to a gloomy semi-derelict pile on the edge of Exmoor, overlooking the Bristol Channel. Her son and two daughters are all married and successful in London life. Frieda is a writer, engaged on her memoirs. (Perhaps Ms Drabble, who spends time at Porlock Weir these days, has met her type in the fleshpots of Minehead.) Frieda is also, for reasons which are not entirely clear, ill-disposed towards most of her offspring and their families.

And so is Ms Drabble. She paints them, first, in two dimensions. They are, it would seem, devoted couples. But all is not as it appears. They are smug, complacent. They are riding for a fall. We should not be too surprised. Their society is not just. We shall see how they suffer.

Why am I writing like this? Because Ms Drabble does. It can be tiresome, as you see.

But what is more interesting is that the insistent authorial voice takes pleasure in the misfortunes of these not — especially — wicked representatives of the English chattering classes. She visits misfortunes on them — a son's drug addiction, a friend's messy suicide — with malicious glee.

And, with only one exception, they end the novel in a state below their original position. All sins are punished severely. One character comes in for an "unjust", though unasked for, inheritance: he becomes clinically depressed.

It is hard to escape the conclusion that Ms Drabble doesn't like us any more. She exhibits an acute case of what Marxists used to call alienation. She thinks we are nothing like as nice as we look. We are trivial; we are hypocrites. We acquiesce in a society which we would not construct if we didn't know what our place in it would be. And we are beyond redemption: "The middle classes of England ... would any of them wish for change? Given a choice between anything more serious than decaffeinated coffee or herbal tea, would they dare to choose?"

I believe she overstates the case. We are not as bad as all that — and perhaps less hypocritical than most. Perhaps our society does not come up to John Rawls's testing standard. But it is hard to think of any which do, or did. And one of our strengths is that we harbour, in our midst, caustic chroniclers like Ms Drabble.

This is a powerful novel, which handles big themes in a brusque, muscular, chin-leading style. Indeed its prime fault is brevity; sometimes one wishes that she would pause for breath. At the end, I wished it had been twice as long.

Howard Davies is Deputy Governor of the Bank of England.

THE MANSELL COLLECTION



This decorous 19th-century vision of George III's Coronation in 1761 is not matched by Horace Walpole's acerbic version of the event

The hesitancy of his delivery takes off from the force of his arguments

Duncan Fallowell

HORACE WALPOLE
The Great Outsider
By Timothy Mowl
John Murray, £19.99
ISBN 0 7195 5619 8

By current standards this is a short biography, without footnotes or list of sources. Its author is going for a Stracheyite approach but his own intrusiveness is often nervously overwrought, especially in the first half.

In the introduction he explains that although Horace Walpole was a homosexual he, Mowl, is "happily married to a second wife and the experienced father of a school-age son ..." Any reader must feel that Walpole, son of the Prime Minister, a man of enormous warmth of character (though he could be a bit of a bitch on occasions), populariser of rococo Gothic in architecture and in the novel, one of the heroes of 18th-century English taste, its greatest letter-writer and one of its greatest historians, deserved something cleverer than this as an opening gambit.

Mowl then goes on to insult, among many other things, the whole of English poetry in the 18th century, referring to "the gin-trap of Dryden-Pope diction" (whatever that means). Misplaced assurance at such moments is matched by sudden collapses of focus elsewhere. Of *The Castle of Otranto* he says that "a brief précis is impossible" and then gives precisely that over the next two pages. Of Walpole's drama *The Mysterious Woman*, he says in the same sentence that it "is tantalisingly near to being a masterpiece ... only performable as a curiosity".

Many passages are murky in this way or are repetitive or simply jar, largely on account of Mowl's excess of self, and I am not sure the dignity of the page is served by widespread use of late-20th-century gay parlance such as "size queen" or "outing", especially since there is no actual evidence for Walpole's ever having had sex with anyone at all.

What has been taking place is an attempt by Timothy Mowl to match the sophisticated eccentricity of his subject — he's been reading too many of those wonderfully vivid and opinionated letters. This is a recurring blight on a book which otherwise contains many delicious things.

It is both original and rewarding of Mr Mowl to present Walpole as England's 18th-century Proust. Less analytical than Proust, he is just as effective in conveying the entire doings of a milieu and is far more informative. Such an association also points up the modernness of Walpole's eclectic, often mischievous personality.

The shape of Walpole's life, its social, political and cultural features, come through very clearly. In particular, a lot of effort has gone into the reconstruction of Walpole's emotional infatuations, most of it speculative but most of it plausible. Mowl subtitles him the Great Outsider but, as the author admits, he was the great insider too. Rarely indeed have the two aspects come so opportunely together. This enabled Walpole to relate, for example, in his description of George III's Coronation at Westminster Abbey, how when the new young Queen Charlotte retired to a special "convenience" set up for her behind the high altar, "what found she but — the Duke of Newcastle perked up and in the very act upon the anointed velvet close-stool".

At the end of Walpole's life he rediscovered Paris because, then as now, it was not ageist like London: "One is never old here, or never thought so ... the first step towards being in fashion is to lose an eye or a tooth ..."

He died on March 2, 1797. I have been unable to locate in this text the day, or even the year, of his birth.

SATURDAY
John Naughton on Alec Guinness, Claire Bloom and Joan Collins
Marcel Berlins on Patricia Cornwell
Bevis Hillier looks back on 100 years of *Country Life*

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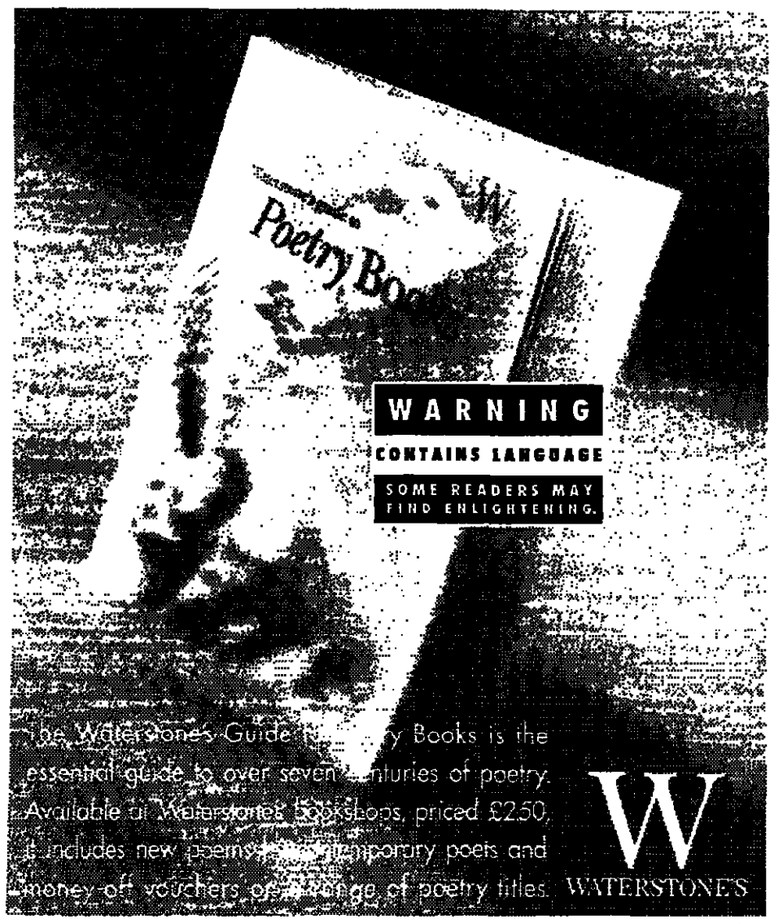
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Peter Ackroyd joins Harold Bloom in rejecting the bankrupt spirituality of 'New Age' beliefs

Deaf to the blasts of ecstasy



Made-in-America gnosis: *Angel*, by Wisconsin sculptor Fred Smith (d.1976), from *Angels in Art* (Abbeville, £15)

OMENS OF MILLENNIUM
By Harold Bloom
Fourth Estate, £15.99
ISBN 1 85702 555 5

It was Benjamin Disraeli who, on discussing the question of whether man evolved from apes or angels, declared "I am on the side of the angels". He is not alone. One of the most remarkable statements in Harold Bloom's *Omens of Millennium* concerns the level of piety, or credulity, among the American public: 69 per cent of that population believe in angels, and 46 per cent are persuaded that they do indeed "have their own guardian angels".

Professor Bloom suggests that this "angelicism" is the consequence of early 19th-century millenarian yearnings, epitomised by the revelations of the angel Moroni to Joseph Smith in 1823, but the early Puritan brethren of New England were also vouchsafed omens and visions. Burning a witch in Salem is only a step away from wearing "cherub pins" in New York. To believe in angels, after all, also implies a belief in demons. This is a country apparently permeated by religious, or at least religiose, fantasies.

Professor Bloom in fact cites four such fantasies as indicating what he describes as "American millennial hysteria" — the trust in angels, the belief in prophetic dreams, the fashion for "near-death" experiences, and expectations of the end of the world. It is an impressive list, even by biblical standards, but for Professor Bloom it represents a weakening and vulgarisation of any authentic religious spirit. He describes these phenomena as part of "Aquarian, or made-in-America, gnosis", and an indication of a spurious hermeticism which has nothing whatever to do with European Christianity. In his previous work, *The Western Canon*, Bloom thoroughly rejected all the fashionable pieties of current literary criticism and espoused the virtues of an authoritative tradition. Here, in *Omens of Millennium*, he similarly rejects the debased "New Age" gabble of America's high priests and even higher priestesses.

He is particularly fierce on the subject of angels. They were once terrifying and formidable creatures. Muhammad fainted at the sight of one; St Paul distrusted them; in the *Book of Enoch* they descend from the skies and ravish young women, begetting a monstrous brood of children. They are not necessarily nice to know, in other words, and hardly a suitable subject for a tie-pin.

That, of course, is Professor Bloom's argument. The contemporary world has lost its dread of angels, and instead has turned them into the insipid figures of current angelogy who stop traffic accidents and help old ladies across the road. Otherwise they are reborn as aliens or "UFOs", lighting up the sky of the mid-West in all the colours of Walt Disney. The authentic terror and mystery of creation are missing in a society which lacks a true spiritual inheritance.

That is why Professor Bloom suggests that the camp followers of the "New Age", and other forms of fake "enlightenment", make some effort to understand the genuine tradition of which they are the ragged and bankrupt heirs. "Belief in angels, by most of us," he writes, "is belief in false miracles, and is an offence against God". He then proceeds to explore the true gnostic tradition in some detail; he touches upon Zoroaster and Hermes Trismegistus, Blake and Emerson, the kabbalah and the Gospel of Thomas.

One element of that faith maintains that the God of this world, worshipped in synagogues and churches and temples, is a most cruel and deceitful demon; the true God, sometimes known as the "Divine Man" or "Man of Light" has been separated from humankind and continually laments his estrangement from us. Yet he remains an inalienable part of us, according to gnostic theory, just as we are an aspect of him.

This belief is conveyed by the gnostic Valentinus in a fragment that begins "From the beginning you have been immortal, and you are children of eternal life". There is a particle of eternity within us, after all, beyond the accidents of Creation and the fall into time. Bloom himself has a wonderful description of this condition, when he notes that there is "something in the self that cannot die, because it was never born". If he were not a literary scholar, he might have been a prophet.

A careful reading of this book does in fact suggest that there are certain insistent patterns of belief to be found in a variety of apparently disparate faiths, and might therefore confirm the studies of some cultural historians who have outlined a *prisca sapientia* or ancient wisdom which has entered the consciousness of various races and tribes. Professor Bloom traces the Sufi belief in the four forms of the astral body, for example, which bears a startling resemblance to William Blake's wonderful and apparently self-conceived notion of the "Fourfold Vision".

It has nothing to do with those "near-death" experiences and divinatory dreams of which the American public is so fond. These are delusions, fuelled by a tortuous self-regard and vapid benevolence. They are hallucinations which are, in the words of Bloom, "impoverished by our incapacity for spiritual ecstasy". He is in fact very good and sensible on the nature of dreams. He quotes the Talmudic saying that "All dreams follow the mouth", which can be taken to mean that they can be endlessly and still correctly interpreted.

Dreaming is also a means of gaining access to the apparently limitless number of images, texts and symbols of which the cerebellum is composed — as Bloom suggests, in another memorable phrase, "we die solitary deaths, but dream communal dreams". In that context he attacks Freud for not becoming a prophet, and therefore not fulfilling his inheritance. Freud remains a central figure of the 20th century, but he will no doubt be remembered as a novelist of emotion rather than a seer; he refused to recognise the prophetic power of dreams, for example, and in that lack of visionary understanding he betrayed himself.

It is an interesting argument — all of Bloom's arguments are interesting, although there are occasions when they are maintained at such a high level of theory that they may confuse the unwary. But this is an engaging and refreshing book. It is also a necessary one, in that it may help to reintroduce the texture of the spiritual world within the increasingly tattered fabric of material reality. That is why Professor Bloom's perceptions are so important and, in a millenarian setting, so timely.

Dinosaurs and disaster

Richard Pipes

MEMOIRS
By Mikhail Gorbachev
Doubleday, £25
ISBN 0 385 40668 1

Like most modern statesmen, now that his political career is over, Mikhail Gorbachev is preoccupied with his place in history. His *Memoirs* are neither as personal as those of his sucessor, Boris Yeltsin, nor notably reflective.

But they are filled with fascinating detail about events which transformed the international order, ending the Cold War and bringing democracy to Russia and her dependencies. Although conscious of his role in these events, Gorbachev is modest in his claims, depicting himself more as an instrument of inevitable historic forces than as an initiator of change.

Perhaps the most interesting parts of the book are those which deal with the atmosphere prevailing in the top circles of the Communist leadership. The most powerful men in the country were living in the same fear and mutual suspicion as their subjects. Gorbachev recounts the occasion when he invited Yuri Andropov, his mentor and head of the KGB, to his dacha for dinner. Andropov refused on the grounds that "tomorrow there would be all kinds of loose talk — who, where, why, what was said?"



Gorbachev: modest

The system grew sclerotic in part because of such fear and suspicion. When Gorbachev complained to Andropov that the average member of the Politburo was 70 years old and out of touch, Andropov responded "that older men were promoted because they had experience and lacked ambition ... Whereas the young think only of their career and how to get ahead."

Gorbachev gives no indication of any strong commitment to Marxism-Leninism. Any such commitment crumbled when he saw the West during informal trips in the 1970s. He was amazed "by the open and relaxed attitude of the people we met and marvelled at their unrestrained judgment of everything, including the activity of their governments and their national and local politicians". Such belief as he had in the superiority of communism was further shaken by observation of the West's vastly higher living standards.

The collapse of communism, as he describes it, occurred with the force of a natural phenomenon. Describing East Germany in 1989, on the eve of its collapse, he says that it reminded him of an "overheated boiler with the lid tightly closed". In his own country, the instant the lid was raised to accommodate reforms, the boiler blew apart. Gorbachev does not maintain that he took office with any preconceived reform plan in mind: there was agreement that the economy had to be reformed. But the resistance of the bureaucratic forces required an appeal to the population by means of elections and referendums as well as the liberalisation of censorship. Once these steps were taken, the whole system unravelled.

A whole section of the book is devoted to foreign policy. If one is to believe Gorbachev, Moscow let go of its East European empire because it confronted there overwhelming pressures for change which it did not want to suppress when it was trying to reform itself.

In describing his difficulties in dealing with Western leaders, especially Ronald Reagan, who impressed him as a "political dinosaur," he shows no understanding for the West's mistrust of his initiatives, naively expecting that he could wipe out the legacy of decades of what he admits had been a Soviet policy of "opposing the rest of the world".

There are no major revelations about the events of 1991 which led to the disintegration of the Soviet Union and Gorbachev's fall from power. He firmly denies any connection with the August 1991 putschists and insists that the dissolution of the Soviet Union was an unmitigated disaster. Although he is generally fair to political rivals, he has nothing but loathing for Yeltsin whom he accuses of deviousness bordering on treason, and blames for what he perceives to be Russia's endemic post-Soviet crisis.

Richard Pipes's The Unknown Lenin: From the Secret Archive *will be published by Yale in November.*

Too far a stretch

Claire Messud

DISTANCE
By Colin Thubron
Heinemann, £15.99
ISBN 0 434 00257 7

COLIN THUBRON'S latest novel, *Distance*, is a love story told backwards, from beyond the brink of disaster. It recalls Thubron's *A Cruel Madness*, in which the unreliable Daniel Pashley reconstructs his ill-fated passion from within the walls of a mental institution. *Distance* does not deal in madness, but takes on its fragmentations: at the novel's outset, Edward Sanders suffers from inexplicable amnesia. He "wakes up" in a town in Wiltshire, unsure of how he got there, his last memory more than two years old.

As they emerge, the details of his life are as unknown and fragile to Edward as they are to the reader: he is a post-graduate student in astronomy, but cannot recall the substance of his work. Visiting his parents, he finds his father bereft and is forced to live a second time the grief of his mother's death. He returns home clutching scattered images of his lover, only to discover that the woman with whom he lives is not she.

What inevitably ensues is Edward's gradual recollection of self, and the approach towards his irretrievable beloved, who lingers like an ominous force in the shadows of his consciousness. Her name is Jaqueline Everard and is, like him, an astronomer. Jaqueline is independent, ungraspable; Edward's love for her is doomed by its strangling intensity. In this instance, the turning point comes on a trip the lovers take to Indonesia, where Edward is tested, and falls short. There are, ultimately, dark consequences to his failure.

Distance, while slight, is atmospheric. Thubron's prose, at times overripe, captures Edward's disjointed alarm, his groping and fumbling in the labyrinth of memory. Edward's images of Indonesia are magnificent — a gift Thubron carries from his travel writing. Of diving with Jaqueline, for example, Edward recalls the subaqueous terrain: "The whole wall was fissured with petrified flowers, sea-fans, gorgonians and star-fish, and perforated by the soundless trumpets of cup-coral. If we looked up we saw whole shoals suspended and translucent against the sunlight."

UNFORTUNATELY, neither Edward's British surroundings nor his passion for black holes can match this glory. Early on, before his mental vision returns, Edward marvels, "I can't imagine having been to Indonesia." Nor, in truth, can this reader: Jaqueline, who lured him there, remains too murky to comprehend. In spite of his devotion, she fails to *live* in the novel. Meanwhile, muted Edward suffers the curse of English reserve to an extreme, and unlike his predecessor Pashley, experiences no attendant insanity with which to fire his lukewarm spirit. Amnesia seems his ideal fate: it leaves behind pure potential. What he re-lives, in the end, neither kindles nor convinces.

Distance is a risky undertaking, and its risks are reminiscent of Thubron's earlier fiction. There, he has more than proven his success. It seems, then, a curious compulsion to revisit this familiar narrative — a compulsion doomed, perhaps, like Edward and Jaqueline, or Daniel and Sophia, from the outset.

Refusing to take the easy way out

Andrew Roberts

THE QUEEN
A Biography of Elizabeth II
By Ben Pimlott
HarperCollins, £20
ISBN 0 00 255494 1

The surprising thing about this book is not that it is so good — Ben Pimlott is after all a distinguished historian and biographer — but that it was written at all. The author of acclaimed works on Hugh Dalton and Harold Wilson, Professor Pimlott, who describes himself as "a fully paid-up, neo-Fabian, Blairite new Labourite", could have taken his pick of serious and substantial Labour Party subjects, yet he chose to forsake the academic high road and write about the Queen instead. One can almost picture all those raised eyebrows at Birkbeck College's senior common room.

The result, though, is a serious political and historical work which neatly complements Sarah Bradford's more social and personal biography published earlier this year. There are fewer revelations, unless Princess Diana's remark to Charles "You will never be King. I shall destroy you" tells you anything about the Queen of Hearts you didn't already know. The lack of sympathy that the real Queen showed Diana over her bulimia is perhaps understandable for someone of her age and background who might be suspicious of new, so-called designer diseases.

Bradford famously went into non-specific detail about Prince Philip's alleged lovers. Pimlott contents himself with references to "girlfriends" in the index which do not end at the 1947 marriage. "His head may occasionally be turned by a pretty face" is almost all Pimlott allows himself, before he returns to the activities of the famously taciturn Buckingham Palace press officer, Commander Colville, whose refusal to enter into even the most innocuous details about the Royal Family earned him Fleet Street's sobriquet "The Abominable No-Man". One is left rather nostalgic for that time of laconic briefings, when even lunch menus at official dinners were considered semi-classified information.

Pimlott's criticism of the Queen's choice of Alec Douglas-Home over Rab Butler in 1963, when she was bamboozled by the wily old Macmillan, sitting up in his dressing gown in the King Edward VII Hospital for Officers, almost makes her into an *ex officio* member of what Iain Macleod later denounced as "the Magic Circle". This is going too far, although it must be accepted that an outgoing Prime Minister must be among the very worst people to consult for an objective judgment as to his successor. Far from regretting her loss of prerogative, as Pimlott assumes, the Queen probably sighed with relief when in 1965 the Tories decided to elect their leaders, rather than rely on the "emergence" process.

Although 1963 was her toughest call, there have been many other uncomfortable moments. She has had to undertake distasteful tasks, such as awarding Nicolae Ceausescu an honorary knighthood, or continuing for years to employ Sir Anthony Blunt, KCVO, despite knowing the murderous truth about both men.



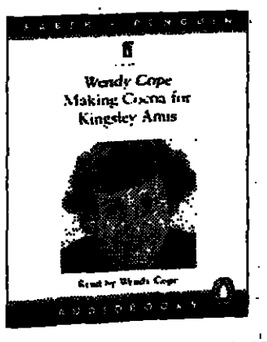
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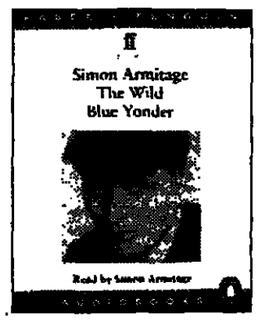
The Queen with Mandela in July

The power the Queen exercises over the assumptions and prejudices of the nation is as phenomenal as it is largely subconscious. In an age given to analysing our every psychological reaction, we have not yet fully appreciated the enormous influence this 5ft 4in woman wields. In the realm of the unspoken givens by which the vast majority of Britons live, the Queen rules as well as reigns. No less than 41 per cent of Britons have dreamt about her at some stage in their life. Usually the context is social, with the dreamer committing an embarrassing *faux pas*. So for all her well-attested ability to put people at their ease, she is the ultimate non-spiritual authority figure. Shelley believed poets were mankind's "unacknowledged legislators". Today it is this commander-in-chief of society's Respectable Tendency.

The overall impression is of a monarch who, politically at least, has reigned in a manner remarkably free from error. In our post-deferential, *Spitting Image* age, she is still greatly admired, and the Golden Jubilee of 2002 will doubtless occasion a massive outpouring of genuine affection. "I must not take the easy way out" was her childhood motto (strangely reminiscent of Queen Victoria's "I will be good") and as this eminently fair and highly professional study reminds us, she never has.

ff
Listen.
Poets that speak for themselves.
Published for National Poetry Day 10 October 1996.





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Return to Sorrento? Not yet, thanks

MORE THAN 7,000 people die on the roads of Italy every year, more than double the number in Britain. And after six days on the Italian Riviera I am surprised the figures are not higher.

Italy has been taken over by the car, lorry and motor-bike. To be a pedestrian in a town such as Sorrento is to offer yourself as a slow-moving target for macho young men in sporty cars, screeching and buzzing scooters, and coach drivers who speed around corners on roads no more than a few inches wider than their vehicle.

The problem may be at its worst in Italy, where once-restful towns such as Sorrento are being battered by the motor vehicle, but it is rapidly becoming a universal one.



The Travel Business

HARVEY ELLIOTT

Individual towns can do little to curb the threat of injury and pollution on the Continent's main roads. But they can do a lot to improve the quality of life for their own inhabitants and for the tourists taking short city breaks in ever greater numbers.

And an example of what can be done lies a few miles away from Sorrento across the Bay of Naples. On Capri, visitors' cars are forbidden. Transport is by a handful of licensed taxis, by cablecar or by bus. The streets and squares are left almost exclusively to pedestrians and the economy is booming. Tourism chiefs from other popular tourist cities and towns would do well to study what Capri has achieved and to see whether it could be copied and even improved on.

Tour operators such as Thomson that feature Sorrento and claim to care about the environment could lead the way. Why take a coach from Sorrento to Pompeii along over-crowded, winding roads when the train is faster, cleaner, stops outside the ruined city and is much cheaper?

From next month, Thomson is offering twin-centre breaks in Sorrento and Capri. Thomson could also offer, whenever possible, train rather than coach trips. Such a move, especially if backed by others such as Citalia and the German giants Tui and Neckerman, could goad local councils into action.

If the tour operators and the local authorities continue to ignore the problem, few of the 538,596 visitors who filled the 93 hotels in the immediate area last year will bother to return to Sorrento.

Cheap air fares lure business travellers

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT

CUT-PRICE airlines are wooing tens of thousands of business travellers from roads and railways to the fast-expanding network of domestic and European air services.

The growth in business air travel is also being enjoyed by scheduled airlines, which are spending millions of pounds on improved facilities for business travellers. But low-cost airlines such as EasyJet, Debonair and Ryanair are enjoying the biggest growth. Ryanair says 45 per cent of its passengers on the Stansted-Prestwick route travel on business.

A passenger survey shows it attracts customers from small businesses who pay their own fare or will make a speculative sales visit if low fares are available. Ryanair charges from £49 return to Prestwick compared with British Airways' or British Midland's round-trip fares of £240.

Meanwhile, London City airport is enjoying a big increase in popularity. In September it increased the number of passengers by 23 per cent to 73,195 and more airlines are trying to join the 13 that already operate from the Docklands airport, serving a total of 18 European cities.

Air UK is increasing its frequency of flights to Amsterdam from the airport from three to four a day from the end of this month and will transfer its Stansted to Rotterdam route to London City from October 27. "There is a perfect match between London City airport's passenger profile and that of Air UK's business customer," an Air UK spokesman said.

Debonair is offering flights between Luton and Copenhagen for £49 and between Luton and Rome for £69 one way. "Since revenue service started in June, our loads have been steadily building above our plan," the chairman, Franco Mancassola, said.

Air Jet, which provides a ticketless "turn-up-and-fly" service between London City and Paris, has reached its target of 1,000 passengers a month well ahead of schedule and is confident it can break even, mainly by attracting business passengers — 70 per cent of whom originate in France — within 18 months.

Throughout Europe, passenger traffic went up by 7.6 per cent in August compared with the same month of 1995. But Karl-Heinz Neumeister, secretary-general of the Association of European Airlines, warned that growth would be sustained only if new airports and air traffic control facilities were provided to keep pace with the demand.

South Africa opens up to cheaper holidays

BY TONY DAWE

A HOLIDAY in South Africa for less than £500 has become a reality following deals which allow new airlines to fly routes into the republic which used to be dominated by British Airways and South African Airways.

Britannia Airways has begun charter flights from Gatwick to Johannesburg and Cape Town and has signed agreements with tour operators to offer cheap holiday packages to a country which used to be one of the more expensive to visit. The airline has been granted rights in the South African courts this week to sell half its charter seats on a flight-only basis.

Virgin Atlantic has also started scheduled flights three times a week from Gatwick to Johannesburg and its holiday company plans to introduce packages for the 1997-98 winter season.

Britannia's deals include an agreement with SARtravel of London which is offering a week in Johannesburg from £499 and a week in Cape Town from £608 on a limited number of November flights.

Bluebird Holidays, which pioneered charter flights to South Africa, is offering a £349 return flight to Johannesburg this month which will increase by £100 next month. These prices compare with APEX fares of more than £700 on scheduled services.

WEXAS, the club for business and independent travellers, is also entering the South Africa bargain stakes by offering members a £399 return fare to Johannesburg.

ARNI SAEBERG-MORGUNBLID



The Vatnajokull glacier eruption is making a mint for the Icelandic tourist trade

Tourist boom for Iceland

BY MARTIN SYMINGTON

TOUR operators to Iceland are reporting a surge of interest in the country as the drama of volcanic eruptions beneath Vatnajokull glacier goes on.

Steina Palsdottir, director of Arctic Experience, which takes more than 3,000 British tourists a year to Iceland, said: "We were inundated with calls on the morning after the eruption was first reported. Some people were merely checking that the holidays they had booked would be safe, but many more want to know if it is possible to see the volcano in action."

The situation is under review, but the answer, according to Ms Palsdottir, is yes. "We can arrange trips, though we have strict rules about where individual travellers may and may not go. On fly-drives, we insist that they do not travel east of Vik. We are also organising special escorted tours which will include a flight over the volcano."

The Vatnajokull icecap is half a mile thick and nearly 100 miles in diameter, covering the live Bardhabunga volcano which has been erupting since October 2. Clouds of volcanic ash are billowing northward, while a lava slick runs south, beneath the ice. The glacier is normally a popular destination for tourists who explore it by snowmobile. Now, not only is the glacier restricted, but also the entire region between it and the south coast.

"We simply do not know what is going to happen next," said Sigurdur Sigurdsson, director of Icelandair and also the Icelandic Tourist Office's representative in London. "The icecap is melting and will eventually run south to the Atlantic, but when and how, and with what consequences, nobody can tell."

According to Mr Sigurdsson, many callers want to know whether it is safe to visit Reykjavik. "The capital is 300 miles away and unaffected," he said.

● *Arctic Experience (01737 218800) is organising a five-day (four-night) special tour of Iceland from October 17-21, including a two-hour sightseeing flight over the erupting volcano; price £498.*

Ski injury claims climb 40%

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT

THE COST of medical claims for ski injuries has risen by more than 40 per cent in the past two years, jumping from an average of £431 a claim to £754, says Columbus Travel Insurance.

The company predicts that more than 700,000 Britons will ski this season and that 13,000 will have to return home early because of serious injury.

Although the number of injuries is expected to remain static, the cost involved is rising sharply.

June Philpott, marketing director of Columbus, said: "While more people are taking out travel insurance some are still failing to recognise its importance, especially for winter sports. Yet skiing without travel insurance is like trying to descend the piste without skis. Insurance is essential."

Suite dreams for £2,100 a night

BY DAVID CHURCHILL

THE Savoy Group yesterday unveiled the first phase of a £62 million renovation of its London luxury hotels, including the restoration of the Front Hall at the Savoy Hotel to its original 1924 design and the opening of two new penthouse suites at Claridge's, believed to be London's most expensive at £2,100 a night plus VAT.

Ramon Pajares, managing director of the group, which also owns the Berkeley and Connaught hotels, announced a Perfect Room Programme to ensure standards are maintained. "This involves two or three people spending several hours in a room making sure everything is in top condition," he explained. All rooms will get this treatment at least twice a year.

Some £18 million has already been spent on the Savoy, with the Front Hall restoration undertaken by designers David Linley and Nina Campbell. New air conditioning has been added and the plumbing modernised.

"It was important to get the essentials right for our guests," Mr Pajares said.

More than 2,000 new telephones have also been installed throughout the group, with modern systems such as voicemail now available.

The two new penthouse suites on the seventh floor of Claridge's have a private roof terrace with views overlooking London. They each have two bedrooms, two bathrooms, dressing room, large sitting room and dining facilities, a private elevator and a personal butler. The rooms were designed by Veere Greeney.

At the Berkeley, the rooftop swimming pool is being refurbished and is due to reopen, along with a new health spa, early next year. Two new executive boardrooms have been added.

Ferry merger could bring monopoly

BY STEVE KEENAN

MERGER talks between Brittany Ferries and P&O European Ferries could leave holidaymakers with no choice on crossings to western France next year.

The two are locked in negotiations about a possible merger along the lines of the P&O-Stena Line deal announced last week on the "short-sea" Dover and Newhaven routes.

Unlike the Dover deal, in which P&O is the lead partner, taking 60 per cent of profits, Brittany Ferries will be the dominant partner on the western routes.

Brittany has more than half the five million passenger market on four western routes, while P&O takes roughly two million on two routes and Stena Line the rest on its Southampton-Cherbourg route.

But Stena is considering the future of the route. A fast ferry is an option or more ships could be deployed from Dover. Should Stena axe the route to concentrate on the Irish Sea, a merged company would be the sole operator on the western Channel.

However, a joint merger would certainly attract the attention of the Office of Fair Trading. Pooling of services with no equity deal is also being considered as a fallback.

David Longden, Brittany's operations director, pledged this week that no routes would be cut except Poole-St Malo. The two companies would also co-operate on routes to northern Spain and a new route may be opened to Biarritz. P&O has extra ships available following capacity cuts at Dover.

Fares would also start to rise again after hitting rock-bottom this year. Mr Longden said. "They have to rise if the future of the company is going to be secured, but they won't go up dramatically."

This year's price war on the Dover Straits had a dramatic knock-on effect on holiday fares from the West Country to France. Brittany cut prices on all four of its routes by nearly 40 per cent. A 21-day return cost £138 on the Poole-Cherbourg and Portsmouth-Caen routes compared to £225 in the brochure.

Brittany is looking to improve on last year's losses of £10 million and this summer instigated a business plan following the pledge of £40 million from the French Government over three years. Ninety jobs have gone in France.

However, merger talks are more laboured than the P&O-Stena Line deal. Brittany is a French-owned company and clashes in cultural styles have resulted. But a decision will be made by the end of the month in time for 1997 brochures.

Fares for the winter season to March 5 will be released tomorrow.

BA fights French air 'plot'

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT

BRITISH Airways has begun a legal battle over an alleged plot to prevent it from competing with state-aided French airlines.

BA claims that a bid by AOM, a French regional airline, to buy the near bankrupt Air Liberte is designed to stop foreign airlines from obtaining take-off and landing slots at key airports and to curb competition on French regional services.

BA is calling on the European Union to block "with the utmost urgency" the offer, which BA says is an illegal use of state aid. The British airline has long been frustrated in its attempts to break into the French market. Last year it made an unsuccessful bid to buy loss-making AOM, an offshoot of the state-owned bank Credit Lyonnais.

The bank was also losing money and a record state injection of cash was approved to keep it afloat. As part of the deal it had to dispose of its holdings in AOM. That has not taken place and, according to BA, the money given to keep AOM afloat is being used instead to buy another loss-making airline Air Liberte.

BA claims that its attempts to buy AOM or even to obtain details of how much Air Liberte is worth have been blocked and that French officials openly admit that whatever happens, foreign airlines will be prevented from obtaining slots at Paris Orly airport.

A BA spokesman says: "All we want to do is to bring air travellers in France the same benefits that British passengers enjoy from free and open competition. Yet we seem to be frustrated at every turn by the French authorities."

Iberia cuts domestic air fares

BY TUNKU VARADARAJAN

THE state-owned airline Iberia has started a price war in Spain, sending fares for domestic flights plummeting to an attractive new low.

Iberia last week announced a new fare — the *Estrella*, or "Star" — which is more economical than the present cheapest fare, which already gives flyers 50 per cent off the normal tariff.

The new fare will be on offer for the rest of the year on 52 different routes throughout Spain. These include flights to the Balearic Islands and the Canaries.

To qualify for *Estrella* prices, flyers must make their bookings at least two days before departure, and have to stay at their destination for a minimum of four days and a maximum of 14. Children are entitled to further discounts.

Some examples of return fares are: Madrid-Seville, 11,900 pesetas (about £60); Barcelona-Las Palmas, 18,700 pesetas; and Bilbao-Palma de Mallorca, 15,900 pesetas.

TRAVEL ON SATURDAY

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Visitors urged to escape to Colditz

BY DAVID ALTHEER

A NEW battle is being fought for Colditz, the Saxony castle that became a prison for British and other Allied officers during the Second World War. The medieval fortress is famous for the large number of men who tried to get out, but now the Germans want to attract people in.

Built in 1046, the castle had fallen into decay after almost half a century of East German ownership. But this spring a Colditz Castle Community (CCC) was formed with the help of the Colditz Association of British veterans and the UK-based Colditz Society to raise funds to make it a prime tourist attraction.

Though there has long been a museum in the castle, suggestions such as turning the castle into a hotel have foundered because of bureaucratic inertia and doubts about helping the town to cash in on its grim wartime history. But Herr Jens Mahlmann, CCC's chairman, says: "History has made Colditz castle a place of international interest."

The existing Escape House exhibition is to be moved from a small room to two floors, where it will show videos including the 1954 John Mills feature film, *The Colditz Story*, and a BBC documentary, photographs taken by the Nazi security police and other wartime items. Work has already started on a restaurant on the "Glider Floor", from where an escape attempt was made by prisoners who built a glider. The castle will also be connected to electronic media. A home page on the Internet has been created at the suggestion of Dr Antony Anderson, the son of William Anderson, who repaired Douglas Bader's artificial legs in the castle forge when they were PoWs.



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هكذا من الأصل

Bargains of the week — from a city of culture to a country cottage or a converted watermill

HOTELS

THREE of London's top hotels — Claridge's, the Connaught and the Savoy — are joining with 120 others around the world on October 28 to host a dinner at £65 a head to mark the 150th anniversary of the birth of Auguste Escoffier, director of the Savoy kitchens from 1889 until 1897. The last *Diner d'Epicure* was held in July, 1914, in 140 cities. Details: Claridge's, 0171-629 8860; Connaught, 0171-499 7070; Savoy, 0171-836 4343.

■ A NEW YEAR'S Eve gourmet dinner dance with overnight accommodation is available for £105 a person, based on double occupancy, at the 36-room Mitre Hotel in Hampton Court, Surrey. Details: 0181-979 9988.

■ GUESTS staying at the Park Hall Hotel & Village resort near Preston will receive one free ticket per night of stay to the nearby Camelot Theme Park or Granada Studios. Cost is £34.50 a person a night through Superbreak Mini Holidays. Details: 01904 679 999.

■ THE Grosvenor House Hotel in London has pre-Christmas room offers from December 3 to 15 at £170 a night, based on double occupancy and not including breakfast. A special brochure detailing Christmas offers including lunch discounts in the hotel restaurants has also just been published. Details: 0171-499 6363.

■ SHEEN Falls Lodge in Kenmare, County Kerry, has midweek packages available this month from £95 a person including accommodation, breakfast and dinner in the hotel's Michelin award winning restaurant. Details: 00 353 64 41600.

■ HOTEL Promotions Services has a *free-night offer* when staying at selected hotels for more than two nights in most continental cities. Details: *0181-446 0126.*

■ WARNER Holidays has a number of weekend breaks available at its holiday villages, including a three-night stay at the Bembridge Holiday Village on the Isle of Wight from November 1 at £89 a person half-board. Evening entertainment is provided by cabaret artists of the calibre of Little and Large. Details: 01705 492121.

■ THE NEXT wine dinner at the Langham Hilton Hotel in central London on October 22 features the Lolonis Winery of *California*, which recently provided the wines at a White House dinner. Cost is £45 a person. Details: 0171-636 1000.

■ GLENEAGLES Hotel has a two-night golfing break available through Leading Hotels of the World from October 31 including lunch, dinner and two rounds of golf, with transfers from the local station. Details: 0800 181123.

■ A TRADITIONAL Hogmanay three-night break is offered by the Invercauld Arms Hotel in Braemar for £297 a person. The break includes a grand gala dinner and dancing and a haggis hunt on New Year's Day. Details: 01339 741605.



The Ponte Vecchio in Florence. You could take a weekend break in the beautiful Renaissance city for £360 a person

FERRIES

A THREE-day Hoverspeed return from Dover to Calais costs £39 for a car and two passengers or £35 on the Folkestone-Boulogne route. A *five-day ticket costs £49 and* £39 respectively (£10 supplement on all Saturday sailings). Details through Eurodrive: 0181-324 4000.

■ SWANSEA Cork Ferries has ferry crossings and three nights B&B available to coincide with the Fringe Jazz Festival in Kinsale and the Guinness Cork Jazz Festival, both from October 25 to 28. The package costs £115 a person to include car crossing. Details: 01792 456116

■ THREE or six-day crossings are available between Belfast and Stranraer on Sea-Cat Scotland until January 6 at £75 and £95 respectively. Fares are available in both directions on certain sailings, *valid for a car and four passengers.* Details: 0345 523523.

■ MINICRUISES aboard Scandinavian Seaways include Hamburg departing Harwich on October 14 and Esbjerg, Denmark, on October 15, both to include two nights on ship, breakfast and a sightseeing tour. Prices from £59. Details: 0990 333111.

■ EUROLINK has £39 crossings for a car and two passengers on its route from Sheerness to Vlissingen, Holland — extra passengers £10 a person. Details: 01795 581000.

FLIGHTS

TRAVELBUG has negotiated special fares with Emirates, departing from Manchester for Dubai on October 17. A return economy ticket will cost *£327 and a business-class seat* £1,079. Passengers must return to the UK by November 30. Details: 0161-740 8998.

■ THE low-cost airline AB Shannon has lowered executive fares between London and Shannon. Business-class fares start from £188 and excursions (with a minimum stay of two nights) are available from £126. Details: 0345 464748.

■ FIRST and business-class passengers flying to London with Saudia are being offered use of a mobile phone. The phone is free but there's a daily insurance charge of £1.75 and calls are charged at 25p per unit. Details: 0171-629 6202.

■ DEBONAIR has a £49 one-way introductory fare for its new service from Luton to Copenhagen. Details: 0500 146200.

■ MEMBERS of Japan Airline's Mileage Bank loyalty scheme can now redeem points for British Midland flights within Europe. Details: 0171-408 1000.

■ LUFTHANSA is offering an extra 2,500 to 7,500 frequent-flyer miles when members book its new Frankfurt-Shanghai route. Details: 0800 300747.

HOLIDAYS

A WEEKEND break in Florence, the city virtually synonymous with the Renaissance and still one of Europe's best-preserved, is on discount this month from Citalia. The price of two nights' bed and breakfast accommodation at a four-star hotel, including return flights, has been reduced from £415 to £360 a person. Details: 0181-686 5533.

■ DISNEYLAND Paris short breaks are available from Sally Holidays for £95 a person this month for couples travelling with two children under 12. The offer includes three nights' accommodation, two-day passes to the park and a return car crossing on Le Shuttle. Details: 0181-395 3030.

■ MENORCA for £99 for a week's self-catering holiday with a flight from Gatwick next Monday is on offer from Unijet. Details: 0990 336336.

■ HALF-TERM week is still available in many of Country Holidays' properties, including a converted barn near Ross-on-Wye in Hereford & Worcester, sleeping four and costing £281 for the week beginning October 19, and *part of a converted watermill* in the Yorkshire Dales, sleeping six and costing £314. Details: 01282 445095.

■ BUDDING Tim Henmans and Clare Woods can take part in a tennis tournament as part of a week with Solo's at the four-star Atalaya Park Hotel, Marbella. Prices start from £690 a person including half-board and use of many other sports facilities. The offer includes a flight from Gatwick on October 27. Details: 0181-951 2800.

■ FAR EAST Travel Centre is offering a three-centre nine-night holiday for £679 a person with hotel accommodation in Kuala Lumpur, Penang and Singapore, and Malaysia Airlines flights. Departures go up to December 14. Details: 0171-414 8808.

■ EILAT for £289 a person for a week in the Marina Club "aparthotel", with a flight from Gatwick on October 21, is on offer from Longwood. Details: 0181-551 4494.

■ FREE CAR HIRE in Cyprus is on offer for holiday-makers booking hotel or self-catering breaks for at least a week from November 1 with Odyssey Holiday. Two weeks in a five-star hotel costs from £449 a person, including return flights from Luton. A fortnight's self-catering costs from £249. Details: 0181-343 9090.

■ SAVINGS of £50 a person on ski holidays booked before November 1 are available from Ski Esprit, bringing the cost of a week on the slopes down to £298, including *return flights and accommodation* in a catered chalet. Details: 01252 616789.

■ *CHRISTMAS in Barbados* for £589 a person, including children half-price and a fortnight's self-catering accommodation at the Sunset Crest Resort, St James Beach, — with return flights — is on offer from Cranbourne Tours. But you must book before next Tuesday. Details: 0181-462 1105.

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BARCELONA	£ 94	HONG KONG	£449	PRAGUE	£139
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DARWIN	£599	MONTEGO BAY	£298	TURIN	£179
DELHI	£329	MONTPELLIER	£139	VALENCIA	£144
DENVER	£299	MOSCOW	£398	VANCOUVER	£298
DETROIT	£289	MUNICH	£ 98	VENICE	£159
DUBAI	£469	MYRTLE BEACH	£279	VERONA	£179
DURBAN	£598	NAPLES	£179	VIENNA	£149
DUSSELDORF	£ 89	NAIROBI	£398	WASHINGTON	£229
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AUCKLAND	£1600	HONG KONG	£1298	PHILADELPHIA	£ 998
BALTIMORE	£ 998	HONOLULU	£1600	PHOENIX	£1698
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BARBADOS	£ 798	JAKARTA	£1100	RALEIGH DURHAM	£1498
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A wealth of quite wonderful things

Preview day at an arts and antiques fair revealed a host of treasures waiting for discerning buyers, says **Joseph Connolly**

Next Tuesday, the sixth annual Lapada Arts and Antiques Fair comes to the Royal College of Art in Kensington, west London, and the wealth of items on offer virtually guarantees that this will be the best show ever. Lapada is this country's largest association of art and antique dealers and nearly 60 of its members will be exhibiting for sale a fine array of just about everything you can think of: silver; jewellery; ceramics; glass; paintings; rugs; clocks; bronzes; textiles; and — most strongly of all — a great deal of superb furniture.

Among my favourite pieces is a pair of chinoiserie glass-fronted display cabinets — these are Chippendale style and period from Ireland (c. 1770) and the patina and proportions are excellent: about £80,000 from Cavendish Fine Arts. The Country Seat is primarily known for the best quality 19th-century furniture designed by prominent artists, designers and architects and this year they are offering a magnificent example of the genre — a large oak doorcase by A.W.N. Pugin in the form of a glazed bookcase lined with beautifully tooled leather dummy book spines. It was probably made by cabinetmakers J.G. Crace (best known for their work in the Brighton Pavilion); a unique and covetable piece at £15,500. The same company is also offering an outstanding and handsome pair of large Carrara marble lions (c. 1860). These are attributed to Alfred Stevens and are priced at £17,500 the pair.

Among the smaller items of furniture, I particularly like a Windsor elbow chair in yew with an elm seat (c. 1850) — a handsome and sturdy piece with a good cruciform splat, and identical to the chairs in Oxford's Bodleian Library reading rooms: £1,700 from Bugle Antiques, which also has a wonderful selection of alternative Windsor chairs ranging from £1,200 to £6,000. Attractive, too, is a rare George II jardinière, c. 1753. This splendid octagonal lidded wine cooler, with its original lead lining, is mahogany and stands four-square on unusual carved cabriole legs, terminating in hoofs: £3,500 from Butchoff Antiques.

The most dazzling examples of silverware are from Marks Antiques: four mighty George III silver entrée dishes of 1816, on antique Sheffield plate-warming stands by Matthew Boulton: £175,000, the set. Among a fine selection of porcelain at the fair, an elegant pair of early 20th-century Royal Worcester ewers is outstanding — graceful in pierced white with gold embellishment and in pristine condition: David Main is offering the pair for £13,000. More Worcester of the same period (c. 1910) is offered by Valerie Main — a pair of 12in-high painted pot-pourri vases with covers (£12,000).

Two different timepieces stand out: a rare and unusual tortoiseshell mantel clock in Louis XV style (c. 1870), as ornate as you would expect and with typical rococo ormolu decoration — £2,850 from Arenski Fine Art. And rather more to my taste is a stained frosted-glass clock by René Lalique c. 1900. This is alive with birds and flowers and stands on its original wooden plinth — good value at £2,800 from Art Nouveau Originals.

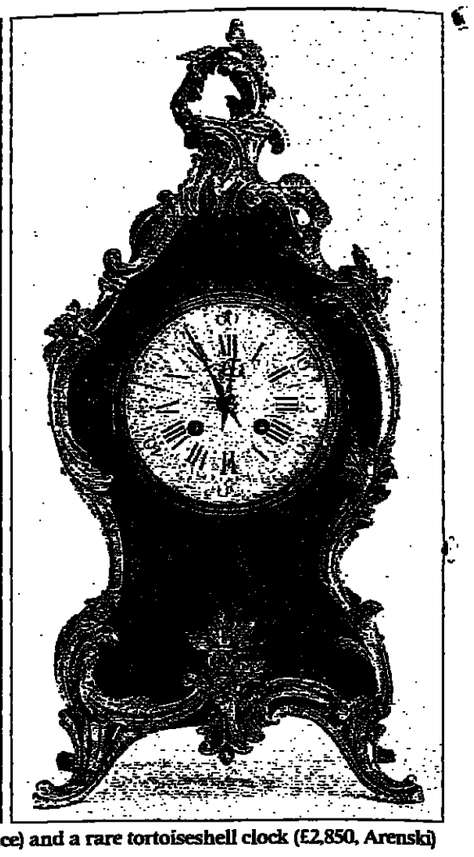
An Aubusson carpet is offered by Lida Lavendar: an extraordinary and complex colour scheme perfectly complements the architectural motifs and geometrical design; it is mid-19th century and £48,000. Smaller and cheaper items include a rare Bilston enamel tea caddy from Rogers de Rin (c. 1780). This decorative item, adorned with colourful repoussé flowers, is priced at £2,500. The floral theme is continued in a fine series of mid 17th-century copper plate engravings of tulips, irises and lilies — a set of 24, but available singly at £600 each from Dinan & Chighine.

Two contrasting displays at the fair, for viewing only, are alone worth the price of entry. One features the 9ft-tall copper statues Humility and Charity — two of a group of sculptures removed for renovation from near the summit of the Albert Memorial; newly regilded in 23.5 carat gold leaf, they are a stunning sight. Also on view are other decorative features temporarily removed from the Memorial, including intricate lead work sparkling with newly restored brightly coloured glass jewels.

The other exhibition is a tribute to the fact that from its inception, the Lapada show has been held in the Royal College of Art — here is a special selection of pictures from the college's own collection of past alumni. The war years are brilliantly represented by Henry Moore, Barbara Hepworth, John Piper and Eric Ravillious — a lovely painting by him of his fellow student Edward Bawden. The exhibition continues chronologically with Bomberg and Auerbach and, by way of such as Bratby, on up to the stars of the 1960s — Peter Blake, Bridget Riley, Patrick Caulfield, Allen Jones, R.B. Kitaj and, most notably, Hockney. What with this and the fine gathering of antiques for sale, Lapada is just about as glittering as a fair can be.

● *The Lapada Show is at the Royal College of Art, Kensington Gore, London SW7 from October 15 to 20. Weekdays 11am to 8pm, weekends 11am to 6pm. Admission £10 single or £16 double.*





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Law Report October 10 1996 Chancery Division

Claims by investors not validly assigned to compensation scheme

Investors Compensation Scheme Ltd v West Bromwich Building Society
Same v Hopkin & Sons (a Partnership)
Alford and Others v West Bromwich Building Society
Armitage v Same

Before Mr Justice Evans-Lombe

[Judgment October 3]

Whereas a cause of action might constitute a chose in action capable of assignment, there was no authority for the proposition that part of the remedies available to the owner of that chose to enforce his ownership could be separated from his cause of action so as to constitute an assignable chose in action in its own right.

Mr Justice Evans-Lombe so held in the Chancery Division when declaring, on preliminary issues:

1 That upon the true construction of the standard *Investors* Compensation Scheme claim forms, claims for

(i) damages or equitable compensation for undue influence, misrepresentation, breach of duty, and/or breach or assistance in breaches of fiduciary duty; and

(ii) an account of sums owing between the Alford and Armitage investors and West Bromwich Building Society "after abatement or adjustment in respect of the said damages and/or compensation": made by those investors (a) had not been validly assigned to the ICS, and (b) could be pursued by the said investors.

2 That the claims advanced by ICS had not been validly assigned.

ICS was established under the provisions of section 54 of the Financial Services Act 1986 pursuant to which there were brought into existence the Financial Services (Compensation of Investors) Rules 1990.

Investors suffering losses as a result of breaches of the rules obtained compensation from the scheme by submitting claim forms which under section 3(a) of the forms required a declaration that the claimants had received no compensation of any kind and confirming that they did not expect to receive any in the future.

A further declaration stated that ICS would take over the claimants' rights and claims against third parties on the payment of any compensation as described in the transfer of rights at section 4 of the form.

Section 3(b) of the claim form provides: "ICS agrees that the following claim shall not be treated as a third party claim for the purpose of this agreement and the benefits of such claim shall inure to you absolutely:

"Any claim (whether sounding in recission for undue influence or otherwise) that you have or may have against [the West Bromwich Building Society] in which you claim an abatement of sums which you would otherwise have to repay to that society in respect of sums borrowed by you from that society in connection with the transaction and dealings giving rise to the claim (including interest on any such sums)."

Section 4 provides: "5 We agree that in the event of our receiving moneys or assets in respect of the claim from the participant firm or from any trustee appointed under the Financial Services Act 1986 we will forthwith pay or transfer them to ICS.

Section 6 provides: "We hereby assign to ICS each and every third party claim and the benefit thereof".

The two preliminary issues for decision were:

"1(a) Whether, upon the true construction of the express and (if any) implied terms of the ICS claim form and in the light of the answer to issue 1, any (if so which and which parts thereof) of the claims which the ICS advances ... have been assigned to the ICS and (b) if so, is such assignment valid and effective and does it enable the ICS to maintain the actions."

Mr Nicholas Strauss, QC and Mr Neil Kitchener for the Alford plaintiffs; Mr David Oliver, QC, Mr Andrew Hochhauser and Mr Vernon Flynn for West Bromwich Building Society; Mr Geoffrey Vos, QC, Mr Denis Brock, solicitor, and Mr Guy Morpuss for ICS; Mr Justin Fenwick, QC and Mr Mark Cannon for Hopkin & Sons, solicitors, Mansfield

MR JUSTICE EVANS-LOMBE said that on August 29 he had ordered the preliminary issues to be tried.

ICS was a body established under the 1986 Act and the Rules made thereunder to administer a scheme for the compensation of investors in cases where persons authorised to conduct investment business under that Act were unable or likely to be unable to satisfy claims made against them in connection with their investment business.

The claims concerned those resulting from the failure of Fisher Prew-Smith Ltd ("FPS") an independent adviser regulated by FIMBRA, an authorised person under the Act.

FPS was responsible for the promulgation to the public of an equity release scheme known as home income plans ("HIPs"). The schemes failed.

West Bromwich Building Society was one of a number of building societies involved as financiers of such schemes. Investors who had lost money had claims to recover their losses both from the financing building societies and from professional firms, primarily solicitors, who, it was said, had advised them to enter into the schemes.

To deal with the resulting mass litigation various test cases had been selected as illustrating the typical issues arising. Those were grouped into two streams.

The first stream of 20 claims was representative of claims by investors arising from failed HIPs against Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society and various professional advisers in cases where that society was the financier, the C & G case.

The second stream, the FPS stream, grouped 18 claims as representative of similar claims made by investors against West Bromwich Building Society and various professional advisers, entirely solicitors, involved in failed HIPs in which that society was financier.

On November 1, 1995 his Lordship gave judgment in *Investors Compensation Scheme Ltd v Cheltenham & Gloucester plc*. The issue in that case raised substantially the same questions as those raised in the second issue in the instant case but on the way to deciding it, his Lordship was required to deal with questions which would largely determine the first issue in the instant case.

In the present case, as in the C & G case, the issue concerned the construction of the same two documents described as "claim forms" in substantially the same form. Although some of the issues to be determined referred to "the claim form" in the singular there were two such forms, the second, containing certain additions to and omissions from the first.

The additions simply made explicit what would have been implicit in the first form. In the instant case two further groups of parties in addition to a defendant building society appeared.

The first group divided into two and were referred to in the issues as the "Alford" and "Armitage Investors" who had also issued separate proceedings against West Bromwich only.

They claimed: (i) recission of their mortgages with West Brumwich on terms; (ii) a declaration that their mortgages were held on trust by West Bromwich; (iii) damages and abatement or adjustment in respect thereof; (iv) that the mortgages be declared unenforceable or re-opened by the court under the Consumer Credit Act 1977.

Since the Armitage plaintiffs were not seeking to make any points different from those advanced by Mr Strauss for the Alford investors they withdrew.

The second group of parties comprised the solicitor defendants.

The Alford and Armitage investors were referred to in the statement of facts as "the individuals" and Mr Strauss contended that notwithstanding the assignment provisions in favour of ICS contained in the claim form, by reason of the inclusion of section 3(b), they were entitled to pursue against West Bromwich the claims for financial relief, that was, the various damages claims in addition to the bare claim to have the transactions between them and West Bromwich rescinded.

It was his contention that that was their entitlement on a true construction of the claim form including section 3(b).

Having summarised and considered Mr Strauss's submissions on behalf of the individuals, his Lordship gave his reasons for rejecting the building society's submissions as to construction in the C&G case in which he had said:

"It seems to me plain from the claim forms themselves and from the surrounding circumstances in which they came into existence ... that the intentions of the parties to the claim forms must have been that the ICS was to take from investors, as consideration for the payment of compensation, an assignment of all claims which the investors might have against both Aylesbury and others who could be shown to have been wrongdoers, with the exception that there might be left to be pursued by investors, claims which they were individually more suited to pursue."

That is, the claim to rescind and any consequential claim to reduce the amount due to the building society which would have to be repaid as part of restitution consequent on such recission.

His Lordship remained of that view and in consequence rejected both of the alternative submissions as to the construction of section 3(b) contended for by Mr Strauss.

Mr Fenwick submitted, inter alia, that if rule 2.10.1 of the 1990 Rules was to be construed as capable of making effective against third parties assignments of claims within its provisions, it was ultra vires the provisions of the relevant rule-making power in section 54 of the 1986 Act and in particular subsections (1) and (2).

His Lordship, having considered all those submissions and those of Mr Vos, concluded that it was implicit in a statutory object to create a system for the compensation of a class of members of the public that there should also be established an efficient system for the compensating authority to be able to recover from all persons whose misconduct had led to such compensation being necessary, contributions or indemnity to cover the compensation paid

He therefore adhered to the view expressed by him in the C & G case that rules giving effect to the assignment of third party claims to a management company were intra vires the rule-making power in section 54(1) of the 1986 Act.

His Lordship then turned to the question whether the subject matter of the assignment contained in section 4 of the claim forms, when qualified by section 3(b), constituted a chose in action capable of assignment at all.

That point was not argued in the C & G case but was taken by all three counsel against Mr Vos. In his skeleton argument Mr Strauss put the point in the following terms:

"However, it is submitted that on the ICS construction the purported assignment of a remedy in respect of a cause of action, in circumstances in which a mutually exclusive remedy is left with another party, is void.

"So far as the Alford plaintiffs are aware there is no authority for the proposition that a remedy can be divorced from its cause of action so as to constitute a chose in action capable of assignment in its own right and it is submitted that such a purported assignment leads to inexorable muddle in litigation which is contrary to to public policy and that any such purported assignment should be held to be void on that ground."

That submission was also the centrepiece of Mr Oliver's brief but helpful submissions whereby he drew attention to to the definition of a chose in action in paragraph 1 on page 2 of volume 6 of *Halsbury's Laws of England* (4th edition (1990)) where the modern meaning of chose in action was described as "all personal rights of property which can only be claimed or enforced by action and not by taking physical possession".

The fundamental problem was that a chose in action was to be differentiated from the remedies which the owner of that chose could obtain from the court in order to enforce his ownership.

A cause of action, for example, for misrepresentation was constituted and resulted from the combination of the group of facts and legal rights which flowed therefrom which conferred on a claimant the right to come to court to claim certain relief. Such a cause of action might constitute a chose in action capable of assignment.

However, what was here sought to be assigned was not the chose in action but part of the remedies which the original holder of the chose in action, the investor, held prior to the purported assignment.

It followed, so it was contended, that what was purportedly assigned was not a chose in action and accordingly any attempted assignment was void.

His Lordship was reluctantly driven to the conclusion that there was no answer to that contention.

Mr Vos contended that rule 2.10.1 expressly authorised an assignment such as was here attempted where it referred to "the whole or any part of the remedies available to him against any person" passing from an investor to the management company.

It did not seem to his Lordship that those words required to be or should be construed as meaning "the whole or any part of the remedies available to him against any person".

It was entirely possible equitably to assign part of a chose in action in the sense of part of its value and it was to that possibility that those words in rule 2.10.1 must be taken to apply.

On consideration of the impact of that conclusion on the claim form's attempt to assign claims against third parties other than West Bromwich, that is to say the solicitors, at first sight because those claims would be primarily for negligent advice, they would not seem to be subject to the same difficulties as the assignment of claims against West Bromwich while retaining a right against West Bromwich to rescind.

However, that was to disregard the solicitors' rights to join West Bromwich in a claim for contribution bringing into play again all the difficulties of conflicting remedies in different hands.

The only logical conclusion was that the attempted assignments of the solicitors' claims were also ineffective because thus claims constituted only some of the remedies which were available to the assignor investor, prior to the assignment, to be compensated for the loss occasioned to him by being persuaded to enter into an HIP transaction.

His Lordship had expressed reluctance in coming to his decision because of the impact of such a result on the litigation which meant that there had been no valid assignments to ICS.

Solicitors: Barnett Sampson: Eversheds, Birmingham; Clifford Chance; Reynolds Porter Chamberlain.

Council duty to help destitute

Regina v Hammersmith and Fulham London Borough Council, Ex parte M
Regina v Lambeth London Borough Council, Ex parte P
Regina v Westminster City Council, Ex parte A
Regina v Lambeth London Borough Council, Ex parte X

Before Mr Justice Collins

[Judgment October 8]

A destitute asylum seeker who had no money and therefore lacked the means of supporting himself, could be said to be "in need of care and attention" within the meaning of section 21(1)(a) of the National Assistance Act 1948, as amended, so as to impose upon a local authority a duty to provide him with accommodation as defined in section 21(5).

Mr Justice Collins so held in a reserved judgment in the Queen's Bench Division, granting four separate applications for judicial review by the applicant asylum seekers, M, P, A and X against local authorities' refusals of assistance under section 22(1)(a) of the 1948 Act, as amended by the Local Government Act 1972, the Housing (Homeless Persons) Act 1977, the Children's Act 1989 and the National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990.

Section 22 of the 1948 Act, as amended, provides:

"(1) Subject to ... this part of this Act, a local authority may with the approval of the secretary of state, and to such extent as he may direct, shall make arrangements for providing:— (a) residential accommodation for persons aged 18 or over who by reason of age, illness, disability or any other circumstances are in need of care and attention which is not otherwise available to them. ...

"(5) References in this Act to accommodation provided under this part thereof shall be construed as ... including references to board and other services, amenities and requisites provided in connection with the accommodation. ..."

Mr David Pannick, QC and Mr Stephen Knafler for the applicants: Mr Michael Beloff, QC and Mr Nigel Giffin for Hammersmith and Lambeth; Mr Michael Beloff, QC and Mr Clive Jones for Westminster; Mr Nigel Pleming, QC and Mr Steven Kovats for the Secretary of State for the Department of Health as interested party.

MR JUSTICE COLLINS said that each applicant was an asylum seeker who, because he failed to make his application on arrival in the United Kingdom, was ineligible for any social security benefits or for housing under the Housing Act 1985, by virtue of sections 9 to 11 of and Schedule 1 to the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996, passed as a result of the Court of Appeal decisions in *R v Secretary of State for Social Security, Ex parte Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants; Same v Same, Ex parte B (The Times* June 27, 1996) and *R v Kensington and Chelsea Royal London Borough Council, Ex parte Kihara* and associated appeals (*The Times* July 10, 1996).

None of the applicants was entitled to work for the first six months of his stay while his application was being considered. None had funds of his own and none had friends to whom he could turn for assistance. Thus, unless he could find help from charitable sources, he had no means of livelihood.

Each applicant was destitute and faced the dilemma that he must either starve without a roof over his head or return to the country from which he had fled.

The applicants sought help from the local authorities under section 21(1)(a) of the 1948 Act. Their only connection with the relevant authority was that they were sleeping rough or had been living temporarily in the area.

The authorities denied that they had any responsibility to act under section 21(1) because the applicants were not in need of care and attention within the meaning of the subsection.

The Secretary of State for the Health Department asserted that the applicants were in need of money, not care and attention, and so were not within the ambit of the subsection: and that the words "any other circumstances" in section 21(1)(a) were to be construed eiusdem generis and were thus limited to circumstances relating to the physical condition of the individual seeking assistance.

The applications therefore turned on the true construction of section 21(1)(a).

Mr Beloff submitted that Parliament enacted sections 9 to 11 of the 1996 Act in the belief that the result would be totally to deprive asylum seekers of access to public assistance of any sort and that to allow the present applications would be to frustrate the will of Parliament which had been so clearly and unequivocally set out in the 1996 Act.

His Lordship said that Parliament's intention in enacting section 21(1)(a) determined its true construction, not its intention in enacting the 1996 Act.

The purpose of the 1948 Act was to supersede the existing poor law and to provide that those in need should have access to state benefits for the relief of poverty and to accommodation and other services to be provided by local authorities.

It was clear that the words "or any other circumstances" in section 21(1)(a) were intended to cover eventualities not foreseen and to ensure that there was a safety net to protect those who were in need of care and attention.

The whole purpose of the 1948 Act was to ensure that no one would be left destitute because of an inability to fend for himself.

Subsequent amendments did not change the construction of section 21(1)(a). Rather they confirmed the intention that the subsection should be available as a safety net for those unable to fend for themselves and who were therefore in need of care and attention.

The words "any other circumstances" were free standing categories which, although they had to be construed in their context, were not restricted by any notion of physical or mental weakness other than such as were inherent in the expression "in need of care and attention".

The meaning of the phrase "in need of care and attention" depended on its context. Potentially it had a wide ambit. In ordinary English usage someone who was unable to provide for himself the basic necessities of life could properly be said to be in need of care and attention. He needed at least shelter, warmth and food.

It was said that applicants needed only money, not care and attention. But the point was that they could not get money and without it they could not fend for themselves.

Section 21(1)(a) was a provision of last resort. Local authorities were entitled to satisfy themselves that there was truly no other source of assistance available and that accommodation within the meaning of the section 21(5) was needed to provide for the bare necessities of life.

The right to life was a fundamental human right which the law would protect. That consideration was referred to in *R v Inhabitants of Eastbourne* ((1803) 4 East 103), where Lord Ellenborough, Lord Chief Justice, had said: "As to there being no obligation for maintaining poor foreigners before the statutes ascertaining the different methods of acquiring settlements, the law of humanity, which is anterior to all positive laws, obliges us to afford them relief, to save them from starving. ..."

Although the "law of humanity", which his Lordship interpreted as the protection of fundamental rights, could not prevail against the clear words of a statute, it was to be presumed that Parliament had legislated in accordance with it.

Upon its true construction, therefore, section 21(1)(a) imposed a duty upon the local authorities to provide for the applicants if satisfied that any of them had no other means of support and therefore were in need of care and attention, since such a need might exist where a person was unable to provide for himself.

That conclusion did not frustrate the will of Parliament in enacting the 1996 Act. His Lordship found it impossible to believe that Parliament intended that an asylum seeker, who was lawfully here and who could not lawfully be removed from the country, should be left destitute, starving and at risk of grave illness and even death because he could find no one to provide him with the bare necessities of life.

If Parliament really did intend that in no circumstances should any assistance, other than hospital care, be available to those asylum seekers, it had to say so in terms.

If it did, it would almost certainly put itself in breach of the European Convention on Human Rights (1953) (Cmnd 8969) and of the Convention and Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees (1951) (Cmnd 9171) and (1967) (Cmnd 3906) and that was another reason why his Lordship found it unlikely that the safety net had been removed.

For those reasons the local authorities had adopted too narrow a construction of section 21(1)(a) and had to reconsider whether the applicants had to be assisted.

Solicitors: Clore & Co, West Kensington; Mr C. T. Mahoney, Hammersmith; Mr J. Curran, Lambeth; Mr C. Wilson, Westminster; Treasury Solicitor.

Police subject to race bias Act

Farah v Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis

Before Lord Justice Peter Gibson, Lord Justice Otton and Lord Justice Hutchison

[Judgment October 9]

Police officers were subject to section 20(g) of the Race Relations Act 1976 so that it was unlawful for them to discriminate in the provision of services, including the provision of protection from crime. But while a claim might be maintained against individual officers, the chief officer of police was not vicariously liable for their acts of racial discrimination.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing an appeal by the defendant, the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis, against the refusal of Judge Harris in Central London County Court on December 21, 1995 to strike out certain passages in the particulars of claim of the plaintiff, Zeinab Farah, for false imprisonment, assault and battery, malicious prosecution and unlawful racial discrimination.

Section 20 of the Race Relations Act 1976 provides:

"(1) It is unlawful for any person concerned with the provision (for payment or not) of goods, facilities or services to the public or a section of the public to discriminate against a person who seeks to obtain or use those goods, facilities or services ... (b) by refusing or deliberately omitting to provide him with goods, facilities or services of the like quality, in the like manner and on the like terms as are normal in the first-mentioned person's case in relation to other members of the public. ..

"(2) The following are examples of the facilities and services mentioned in subsection (1) — ... (g) the services of any profession or trade, or any local or other public authority."

Section 53 provides:

"(1) Except as provided by this Act no proceedings, whether civil or criminal, shall lie against any person in respect of an act by reason that the act is unlawful by virtue of a provision of this Act."

Mr Robert Seabrooke, QC and Mr Duncan Macleod for the commissioner: Mr Andrew Nicol, QC and Miss Heather Williams for the plaintiff

LORD JUSTICE HUTCHISON said the plaintiff was a Somali citizen and refugee, aged 17 in 1994 when she was attacked in Lee with her cousin aged 10 by some white teenagers who set a dog on her and injured her.

By a 999 call she summoned police assistance but the police officers who came in response, instead of helping her and seeking to detain her attackers, arrested her without cause and charged her with affray, common assault and causing unnecessary suffering to a dog. No evidence was offered when she appeared to answer the charges and she was acquitted.

She had brought an action for damages against the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis alleging false imprisonment, assault and battery and malicious prosecution.

She had also included in her statement of claim an allegation that the conduct of the attending police amounted to unlawful racial discrimination. Judge Harris had refused to strike out that allegation and allowed the plaintiff to amend that part of her particulars of claim.

By the amended pleadings she alleged that the officers were acting as the commissioner's agents and because of her race had failed to afford her the protection afforded victims of crime who were white and had brought the proceedings against her on racial grounds, so treating her less favourably than they would treat other persons.

The six-month period under which she could have brought such an action against the individual officers had expired.

The important issues to be determined were: first, whether a police officer came within section 20 of the Race Relations Act 1976 and second, whether, if he did, his chief officer of police was answerable in law for any breaches of the Act he might have committed.

Answering the first question in the affirmative, his Lordship said it was arguable that the limited service for which the plaintiff looked to the police came within the test laid down by Lord Fraser of Tullybelton in *In re Amin* ([1983] 2 AC 818), that the service done on behalf of the chief officer be of a kind similar to acts that might be done by a private person.

His Lordship rejected Mr Seabrooke's argument that it would be contrary to public policy to bring police officers within section 20 of the 1976 Act. He accepted Mr Nicol's contention that section 20(2)(g) was entirely apt to cover those parts of a police officer's duties involving assistance to or protection of members of the public.

The plaintiff's claim was that she sought the service of protection and because of her race was denied the protection others would have been afforded.

It seemed to his Lordship that was no less the provision of a service than was the giving of directions or other information to a member of the public who sought them. Nothing in the subsection excluded police officers.

There was no reason why a person performing a public service might not also be providing a service: *Savjani v Inland Revenue Commissioners* ([1981] QB 458, 467) per Lord Justice Templeman.

There were powerful public policy arguments on both sides and his Lordship did not find the spectre of racial discrimination claims against the police to be more disturbing that the prospect that a member of the public who, seeking assistance in dire need had been the subject of racial discrimination, should be without remedy.

A claim of racial discrimination could plainly be made against an individual police officer by a member of the public. But there were difficult problems with the issue whether the commissioner was vicariously liable.

As a matter of strict construction the prohibition in section 53(1) of the 1976 Act affected both types of claim and identity of parties. The section was very restrictive and expressed in clear language.

Ordinary vicarious liability apart from the Act did not suffice to found a claim; it was only to the extent that the Act permitted vicarious liability claims that they could be maintained.

His Lordship rejected a submission by Mr Nicol that police officers should be regarded, since *Hawkins v Bepey* ([1980] 1 WLR 419) as agents of their chief officer.

But in that case, the police officer had acted on the express instructions of the chief constable. There was no valid ground in the present case for concluding that the officers were the commissioner's agents.

LORD JUSTICE OTTON agreeing, added that like Lord Justice Templeman in *Savjani v Inland Revenue Commissioners* (at p460) he would be slow to find that the effect of something which was humiliatingly discriminatory in racial matters fell outside the ambit of the Act.

Had Parliament intended to make police officers immune from action for racial discrimination it would have said so.

Lord Justice Peter Gibson agreed with both judgments.

Solicitors: Solicitor, Metropolitan Police; Deighton Guedalla, Clerkenwell.

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European Law Report — Luxembourg

Security for costs requirement for foreigners is discriminatory

Data Delecta Aktiebolag and Another v MSL Dynamics Ltd

Case C-43/95

Before C. N. Kakouris, President of the Sixth Chamber and Judges G. F. Mancini and P. J. G. Kapteyn

Advocate General A. La Pergola

(Opinion May 23)

[Judgment September 26]

Where a member state required a legal person established in another member state, but not one established in its own territory, to lodge security for costs in an action against a national of or a company established in the state, the requirement was precluded by article 6 of the EC Treaty, which prohibited discrimination on the ground of nationality, where the action was connected with the exercise of fundamental freedoms guaranteed by Community law.

The Sixth Chamber of the Court of Justice of the European Communities, in the first judgment of the Court on a reference by a Swedish court for a preliminary ruling under article 177 of the Treaty, so held on a reference by the Högsta Domstolen (Supreme Court), Stockholm, by order of February 21, 1995, in the course of an action for payment for the supply of goods brought by MSL Dynamics Ltd, an English company, against a Swedish company and a Swedish national.

The question referred was whether it was contrary to the EC Treaty, primarily article 6, to require, pursuant to a Swedish law, a plaintiff who was a United Kingdom legal person to lodge security for costs in an action before a Swedish court against a Swedish national or a Swedish legal person, on application by the defendant, when no such security could be demanded from Swedish legal persons.

The first paragraph of article 6 provides: "Within the scope of application of this Treaty ... any discrimination on grounds of nationality shall be prohibited."

In its judgment, the Sixth Chamber of the Court of Justice held:

Scope of article 6.1

It was settled law that while, in the absence of Community legislation, it was for each member state's legal system to lay down the procedural rules governing legal proceedings for fully safeguarding the rights which individuals derived from Community law, that law nevertheless imposed limits on that competence: see Joined Cases C-6/90 and C-9/90 *Francovich v Italian Republic* (*The Times* November 20, 1991; [1991] ECR I-5357, para 42; [1995] ICR 722).

Such legislative provisions could not discriminate against persons to whom Community law gave the right to equal treatment or restrict the fundamental freedoms guaranteed by Community law.

A national procedural rule such as that in issue was liable to affect the economic activity of traders from other member states on the market of the state in question, although it was not as such intended to regulate an activity of a commercial nature, it had the effect of placing such traders in a less advantageous position than nationals of that state as regarded access to its courts.

Since Community law guaranteed such traders free movement of goods and services in the common market, it was a corollary of those freedoms that they had to be able, in order to resolve any disputes arising from their economic activities, to bring actions in the courts of a member state in the same way as nationals of that state.

National legislative provisions which fell within the scope of application of the Treaty were, by reason of their effects on intra-Community trade in goods and services, necessarily subject to the general principle of non-discrimination laid down by the first paragraph of article 6, without there being any need to connect them with the specific provisions of articles 30, 36, 59 and 66.

A rule of domestic civil procedure such as that in issue therefore fell within the scope of the Treaty within the meaning of the first paragraph of article 6 and was subject to the general principle there laid down in so far as it had an effect, even though indirect, on trade in goods and services between member states.

Such an effect was liable to arise in particular where security for costs was required where proceedings were brought to recover payment for the supply of goods.

Discrimination within article 6.1

In prohibiting "any discrimination on grounds of nationality," article 6 required perfect equality of treatment in each member state of persons in a situation governed by Community law and nationals of the state.

A provision such as the one in issue manifestly constituted direct discrimination on the ground of nationality.

The Swedish Government considered, however, that the principle of non-discrimination did not preclude a requirement for security to be furnished by a foreign plaintiff if any decision ordering him to pay the costs of proceedings could not be enforced in the country of his domicile.

It argued that in such a case the security had the aim of preventing a foreign plaintiff from being able to bring legal proceedings without running any financial risk in the event that he should lose the case.

It added that its national legislation provided, moreover, for various exceptions to the requirement for security, based on the fact that a Swedish defendant could in some circumstances obtain a judgment giving leave for enforcement in the country of the plaintiff's domicile, in particular as a result of international conventions ratified by Sweden.

That argument could not be accepted.

As the court had held in Case C-20/92 *Hubbard v Hamburger* ([1993] ECR I-3777), the right to equal treatment laid down by Community law could not be made dependent on the existence of international agreements concluded by the member states.

On those grounds, the Sixth Chamber of the Court of Justice ruled:

The first paragraph of article 6 precluded a member state from requiring a legal person established in another member state which had brought, before one of its courts, an action against one of its nationals or a company established in the member state in question to lodge security for the costs of the proceedings, where no such requirement could be imposed on legal persons from that state, in a situation in which the action was connected with the exercise of fundamental freedoms guaranteed by Community law.

SQUASH

Shenton displays emerging talent

FROM COLIN MCQUILLAN IN PETALING JAYA MALAYSIA

YESTERDAY'S charge by six English players into the third round of the Perrier women's world open squash championship here was inspired not by Suzanne Horner, the national champion, who progressed later in the day, but by Tracey Shenton, the 19-year-old British junior champion.

Shenton shook the world open seedings with a resolute 70-minute 9-4, 9-7, 8-10, 6-9, 9-6 second-round win over the No 13 seed, Rebecca Macree, of Essex, which earned her an unexpected encounter with the top-seeded defending champion, Michelle Martin, of Australia, today.

In the only all-English match of the day, Shenton, from Stone in Staffordshire, led the combative Macree 2-0 and 7-2 in the third game, and then fought back from 5-0 down in the fifth to record her best senior result.

"I have been training back home for 12 weeks to be ready for this tour," Shenton said. "I wanted to start with the World Open and to be as fit as possible. Now I have nothing to lose against the defending champion, so I can go for it again."

Horner overcame Rachael Grinham, of Australia, 4-9, 9-6, 8-2, 9-1 in 41 minutes while Sue Wright, another member of the England squad, beat Jade Wilson, of New Zealand, 2-9, 9-5, 9-1, 9-0.

Wright and Fiona Geaves meet today in the bottom half of the draw, probably for the right to play Horner in the quarter-finals. Also in the bottom half, Linda Charman, who yesterday defeated the former world No 2, Danielle Drady-Harte, 5-9, 9-0, 9-1, 9-0, faces Carol Owens, of Australia.

In the top half of the draw, along with Shenton, is Cassandra Jackman, who defeated Toni Weeks, of Australia, 9-0, 9-5, 3-9, 9-5, yesterday with a forceful performance marred only by an awkward collision in which she cracked her nose against her own racket, sustaining an injury serious enough to require ice treatment later.

Results 45

Briton maintains perspective as title pursuit nears finishing straight

Hill ready to write happy ending

Oliver Holt ponders questions of success and failure with Formula One's world champion-in-waiting



Hill and Georgie, his wife, above, have both made great sacrifices in pursuit of his world title dream. She was with him in Hong Kong this week as he prepared for the final, decisive race of the season

It is close now, so close. Damon Hill says, that he could drive round Suzuka in the Japanese Grand Prix on Sunday with one hand on the wheel and still get the point he needs to win the Formula One world drivers' championship. One point, just one point: the thought hovered like an uninvited diner at his table as he ate his last supper here in Hong Kong on Tuesday night, before yesterday's journey to Japan.

It hung there in the bittersweet recollections of his wife, Georgie, the memories of the sacrifices both have made to get him so near to his goal. She talked about their wedding day, about the hurried reception at the London Rowing Club, Damon looking at his watch because he was worried they would miss the flight that was taking them to France for a Formula 3000 race. They spent that night in a shabby hotel behind Dijon station.

It was there, too, in the good wishes of the Governor, Chris Patten, and a small group of his friends as they sauntered over from their table at the end of the evening in one of the colony's trendiest restaurants and shook his hand. They all said they would be watching as he tried to secure that point.

Most of all, though, it was there in Hill's mind, in his attempts to grasp the enormity of this achievement. He was anticipating the victory already, trying to gauge the effect it would have on his life. But, always, that point was there, getting in the way, forcing him to confront his fear of losing, casting uncertainty over the joy of winning.

I don't know if it is the love of winning it or the fear of losing it that motivates me more," Hill said. "In some ways, the thought of losing has to be the stronger motivating factor because we all have instincts and the ultimate loss is death, actually losing your life. That has got to be more motivating than another rung up the ladder.

"But there is also this other thing which is fear of winning. That is to do with not knowing what to do next. If I was to win, I would not have the object of my strivings any more. It is achieved. What is there after that? Then perhaps I will be lost because I no longer have a goal. My whole life has led to this point. Should I achieve my goal, what then?

"It is like the saying that it is better to travel than to arrive, that the satisfaction comes from the struggle." Then a smile and his laughter lightened his thoughts. "Right now, I think I could deal with that, with winning it," he said.

"It is impossible to sit here and say just what it would mean. The championship has been my objective and what I have put everything of myself into and what I have made all my sacrifices for, things like our wedding, my time, my hours in the gym. Since I started racing, I have been pushing myself towards the top and this is the top.

"In some respects, it is wrong to regard it as the most important thing in your life because my family is most important and really and truly life will go on whatever happens. But it is what I want and it has consumed every emotion that I have and my entire being, and I would hate to ... well, that is the thought that is not entertained."



Hill got here a week ago, keen to arrive early so that he had plenty of time to banish the jet lag that clings to him more than most. From their suite atop the Peninsula Hotel, he and his wife, who arrived on Sunday so as to minimise the time spent away from their children, Oliver, 7, Joshua, 5, and Tabitha, 15 months, can see the sweep of the crowded harbour and the mountain in the New Territories at the base of which she lived when her father was stationed here in the Army 20 years ago.

They left yesterday afternoon on a four-hour flight to Nagoya with Hill's manager, Michael Breen. From there, a minibus took them to their hotel in the grounds of the Suzuka circuit, two hours away. His holiday is behind him now. His thoughts and his nerves are focused on Sunday's race. Georgie is so tense she does not think she will even be able to watch it.

All this despite the fact that Hill, who will race for the TWR Arrows team next season, will start Sunday's grand prix as the overwhelming favourite to clinch his first title. He has seen a championship slip away from him before in the final race, in Adelaide two years ago, when Michael Schumacher drove him off the road. For him to lose out a second time would be too cruel. Even Schumacher feels Hill deserves the title.

The only man who can deprive him of the championship, his Williams-Renault team-mate, Jacques Villeneuve, has to win the race to have a chance of overhauling the Englishman. Even if Villeneuve achieves that, though, Hill needs only to finish sixth to score the point that will give him the glory instead.

Only rogue elements can stop him. A collision with a backmarker, plumes of smoke from a blown engine; these are the images of his nightmares. They are, he said, things over which he has no control. His only real dilemma about the Japanese Grand Prix is how hard to try to win it.

"Qualifying will be crucial," he said. "It is a fairly safe bet that Jacques and I will be on the front row together but, if I can put it on pole, that will give me a better chance of avoiding trouble at the start. This will be my last race for Williams and I would dearly love to win it because you never know how long it is going to be before you get a chance to win another race.

> 'If I drove round with one hand on the wheel, I could come sixth'

"But I have to weigh that up against the bigger prize, which is the championship. If I just drove round with one hand on the wheel, I could come sixth. That's all I need to do but, in a way, it's more difficult to do that than to win the race. If I don't win it, I am working on the assumption that Jacques will.

"The point about this weekend is that Jacques and I are really in two different races. My objective is to win the championship and, in order for Jacques to win the championship, he has to win the race. I only need one point if he does that. We are on two different agendas.

"He is off the hook as far as having to be cautious or tentative. He has no option but to go to Suzuka, and try to win the race. It is a different frame of mind driving with nothing to lose. I have led the championship all season and I am still there to be shot at. But now I have a pretty straightforward job to do to win it. My sights are set on finishing off that job."

IN BRIEF

Australia ponder spinning options

AUSTRALIA may deploy a three-pronged spin attack for the one-off Test match against India, which begins today, after seeing the state of the pitch at the Feroz Shah Kotla stadium in New Delhi. Brad Hogg, a left-arm spinner, and Peter McIntyre, a leg spinner, are in the squad of 12.

Australia could also call on Mark Waugh's off spin after he took six for 68 in the second innings of Australia's warm-up match against the Indian Board President's XI that ended in a draw on Monday.

Title triumph

Tennis: Chris Wilkinson, of Hampshire, has won the Lawn Tennis Association circuit title by reaching the semi-finals of the Autumn Satellite Masters in Sheffield. He beat Arvind Parmar, the national junior champion, from Hertfordshire, 6-4, 6-2 and meets Robbie Koenig, the No 5 seed, from South Africa, today.

Samantha Smith, the new British No 1, is one of three home players to get a wild card for the Texaco Ladies' Challenger event at the Welsh National Tennis Centre in Cardiff next week. The others are Abigail Tordoff, from Kent, and Monique Javer, a former British No 1.

Christmas fare

Rugby league: Leeds and Bradford Bulls are to play a pre-season match at Headingley on Boxing Day. St Helens and Wigan have also taken advantage of the Rugby Football League decision to allow Christmas derby fixtures, despite the sport's move to a spring-summer season.

Dowd doubts

Hockey: Alan Dowd, the Ireland captain, is a doubtful starter for the World Cup preliminary tournament semi-final against New Zealand in Cagliari today. Dowd sustained a back injury in the 4-2 defeat of the United States last Thursday.

Losses denied

Olympic Games: Games officials yesterday denied reports that the Atlanta event had lost money. Francois Carrard, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) director-general, said the IOC had not yet received a final financial report.

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RACING: FASCINATING RHYTHM'S VICTORY BRINGS UP CENTURY FOR WARREN PLACE TRAINER

Cecil offers another classic pointer

By Richard Evans
Racing Correspondent

TRAINERS are creatures of remarkable habit, none more so than Henry Cecil. Down the years, he has often waited until the leaves have gained their autumnal hue before dispatching a potential classic prospect to Nottingham racecourse.

Oh So Sharp, the outstanding triple crown winner of 1985, began her career at Colwick Park, sited little more than a furlong from the River Trent. Slip Anchor went on to win the Derby after a racecourse debut in Robin Hood country and 12 months ago Cecil sent Dushyantor, runner-up in this year's Derby and St Leger, to the well-tended Midlands venue where he made a winning start.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: LOVE HAS NO PRIDE (4.00 York)
Next best: Multicoloured (2.30 York)

By the time the horsebox carrying Fascinating Rhythm arrived at Nottingham for the EBF Fillies Stakes yesterday the world and his wife appeared to know that the stamina-endowed daughter of Slip Anchor was Cecil's latest seasonal offering.

Carrying the colours of Helena Springfield, the company that enjoyed 1,000 Guineas success in 1979 with One In A Million, she was sent off a shade of odds-on and favourite backers never had an anxious moment once Pat Eddery went for home about three furlongs out.

Fascinating Rhythm galloped on strongly for a workmanlike success which not only provided Cecil with his 100th victory of the season but also attracted a 33-1 quote for next year's Oaks from Coral.

That price could be made to look generous given the post-race remarks of Eddery and Simon Sweeting, assistant to Cecil, who was at Goff's sale.

"She was a bit green but will improve a lot for that. She has a lovely temperament as well," Eddery reported.

Sweeting added: "Pat was delighted with her and she really looks like a filly for next year. She had to work today but she has beaten fillies with good form. I would not want to compare her with anything at home but she has always looked a pretty useful animal."

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Fascinating Rhythm, ridden by Eddery, makes a successful start to her career in the EBF Maiden Fillies' Stakes at Nottingham yesterday

Ever since the days of Robin Hood and Friar Tuck, Sherwood Forest has been loath to give up its secrets but if Jeremy Glover's hunch is correct the legendary woodland may be partly responsible for his remarkable record in the Cambridgeshire.

Glover, who won the race for the fourth time from just five runners with Clifton Fox last Saturday, explained yesterday: "I train only about four miles from that famous old oak tree where Robin Hood and his merry men supposedly met and ever since I started training, my horses have always been better in the autumn. Why, I'm not sure, but it may be something to do with the pollen in the forest.

"The horse are definitely better in the autumn, so I thought that if I got a good handicapper the thing was to find a decent handicap in the autumn — the Cambridgeshire."

The trainer added: "If they are improving at this time of year you are one step ahead of the handicapper."

Whether Clifton Fox is still ahead of the official assessor is a mute point. The progressive four-year-old has been raised 9lb for his comfortable 2½ lengths success at Newmarket. Glover is now considering running him in a listed race at Newmarket early next month or in the November Handicap at Doncaster.

Bosra Sham stays in training

BOSRA SHAM, the 1,000 Guineas winner, will miss the Breeders' Cup meeting later this month, but will stay in training next season.

Wafic Said's filly, who lost her unbeaten record when runner-up to Mark Of Esteem in the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes, will have her final race of the year in the Dubai Champion Stakes at Newmarket on October 19.

"Bosra Sham definitely stays in training," the owner's racing manager, Tim Bulwer-Long, said. "The plan is the Champion Stakes and as long as she pleases us in her work she is a definite runner."

Meanwhile, at Longchamp today, the John Gosden-trained Decorated Hero runs in the listed Prix Eugene de Savoie. Decorated Hero was the fourth of Dettori's seven winners in a day when he ran away with the Tote Festival Handicap at Ascot last month. He will be ridden by Thierry Jarnet in the mile contest.

He is one of three British raiders in a six-runner field, along with Ed Dunlop's Cadeaux Tryst (Tim Sprake) and David Loder's Master Boots (Olivier Peslier).

Pick of the home team could be Criquette Head's Cloud Forest, who was a good second To Byzantium at Deauville last time out.

Longchamp's feature race on Sunday, the Grand Griterium, sees the return to action of Revoque. Peter Chapple-Hyam's colt who won the Prix de la Salamandre last month, is one of the leading contenders for next year's 2,000 Guineas. By Fairy King, he shares the same sire as Arc winner Helissio and Chapple-Hyam's Irish 2,000 Guineas winner, Turtle Island.

He is one of five British-trained horses among the 13 acceptors, completed by the John Gosden pair, Benny The Dip and King Sound, along with Papua and Referendum.

"Revoque is a definite runner. He is very well and I think he has improved on his last run. He worked really nicely the other day," Chapple-Hyam said.

King Sound, who got off the mark at Newbury last month, is the most likely of the Gosden duo to run. Referendum, beaten half-a-length by Desert King in Ireland's National Stakes, may switch to the Dewhurst Stakes at Newmarket next week.

YORK COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: S bin Suroor, 7 winners from 13 runners, 53.8%; D Loder, 10 from 35, 28.6%; H Cecil, 29 from 112, 25.9%; E Weymes, 5 from 21, 23.8%; M Prescott, 3 from 15, 20.0%; J Dunlop, 19 from 99, 19.2%; P Cole, 18 from 98, 18.4%; Lady Herries, 6 from 34, 17.6%; G Wragg, 6 from 39, 15.4%.

JOCKEYS: G Duffield 9 60 15.0%; T Quinn, 15 from 151, 10.0%, K Fallon, 11 from 110, 10.0%. Only qualifiers.

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THUNDERER

2.00 Bolero Boy
2.30 Multicoloured
3.00 WELTON ARSENAL (nap)
3.30 Ten Past Six
4.00 Love Has No Pride
4.30 Double Echo

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.30 MULTICOLOURED.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.30 MULTICOLOURED (nap) 3.00 Verzen. 4.00 Shimazu.

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

9-0430 GOOD TIMES 7a (CD BF F G 5) Mrs D Pescod 9-0 B West (4) 65

Racecard notes. Blue is trainer. Starting price (F — fell P — pulled up U — unseated rider B — brought down S — shaped with R — refused D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing (CD — course and distance win BF — beaten favourite F — form figures: 1 — won 2 — second 3 — third 4 — fourth 5 — fifth 6 — sixth 7 — seventh 8 — eighth 9 — ninth 0 — tenth or lower). Owner and trainer. Jockey and allowance. Official handicap mark. Going on which horse has won (F — firm good to firm hard S — soft good to soft heavy). Owner in bracket. Trainer. Age and sex (a4 5yo mare etc). Prize money and allowance (The Times Private Handicapper's rating).

GOING GOOD — DRAW NO ADVANTAGE
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING — SIS

2.00 EQUITY FINANCIAL COLLECTIONS CONDITIONS STAKES
(2-Y-O £5,070: 6f 214yd) (6 runners)

		316	GREAT OVATION 41 (D,F,G)		L Dettori 9-0
		0031	BERYLLIUM 15 (D,G)		R Hughes 9-0
		143403	BOLERO BOY 19 (C) (Great Escape)		Pat Eddery 9-0
		6022332	FOOT BATTALION 67 (D)		F Lynch (3) 8-7
		15	MAYFAIR 36 (F)		T Quinn 8-7
			SODELA		W Ryan 8-7

BETTING: 7-4 Bolero Boy, 3-1 Great Ovation, 7-2 Mayfair, 5-1 Foot Battalion, 6-1 Beryllium, 25-1 Sodela

1995 NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS

GREAT OVATION best Musical Dancer 11 in 7-runner conditions race at Kempton (7f, good) on penultimate start. BERYLLIUM beat Crazy Colours in 10-runner maiden at Chester (7f, good). BOLERO BOY 13¼ behind Cult of Celebration in handicap at Ayr (6f, good to firm). FOOT BATTALION 2¼ to 7 Can't Remember at course, at Chester (6f, good to firm). MAYFAIR beat Sleep-less Nights 1¼ in unplaced maiden at Ascot (6f, good to firm). SODELA (head start) 17 and 4 lengths 7th of 12 and 13 to Mystic Dawn in maiden at Yarmouth (7f, good to soft) and Selection. BOLERO BOY

2.30 BODDINGTONS MAIDEN STAKES
(3-Y-O: £6,316: 1m 2f 35yd) (10 runners)

			BONANZA PEAK		K Darley
		23	MULTICOLOURED 45 (BF)		J Reid (5)
		5323	PEP TALK 40		Pat Eddery 91
		0	SACRED LOCH 26 (A Chrimes)		A Clark
		6	TUTCHEV 13		R Hughes 77
		03	ENRICHED 22 (Mrs Mercedes)		L Dettori 97
		452	GRAND SPLENDOUR 13 (Sultan Ali)		N Fallon 93
		0	QUESTING STAR 14 (A Oppenheimer)		M Hills
		6	SUFUF 16 (H Al Maktoum)		R Hills 84
			TUAR (Sheikh Mohammed)		J Carroll

BETTING: 6-4 Pep Talk, 5-2 Multicoloured, 3-1 Enrich, 7-1 Grand Splendour, 10-1 Tutch, Sufuf, 12-1 others.

1995 MOTAKABBER 9-0 L Dettori (Favs ran) J Gosden 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

MULTICOLOURED 6l 2nd of 5 to Busy Flight in maiden at Epsom (1m 4f 60yd, good) PEP TALK 4¼l 3rd of 10 to Triple Lass in maiden at Ripon (1m 2f, soft) SACRED LOCH 2¼l 9th of 12 to Raheeb in maiden at Goodwood (1m 2f, good to firm) ENRICHED 1¾l 3rd of 5 to Congo Man in maiden at Sandown (1m 2f, good to firm) GRAND SPLENDOUR 2¾l 2nd of 15 to Razeeq in maiden at Haydock (1m 2f 120yd, good) with TUTCHEV about 8¼l 6th. QUESTING STAR 9¼l 6th of 9 to Fairmile West in maiden at Goodwood (1m 2f, good to firm) SUFUF 4¼l 6th of 15 to Quesada in maiden at Nottingham (1m, good to firm)
Selection: MULTICOLOURED

3.00 ALLIED DUNBAR RATED HANDICAP
(£8,053: 6f 214yd) (7 runners)

301	(1)	3-43011	STAR OF ZILZAL 16 (D,F,G) (Mana Al Maktoum)	M Stoute 4-9-7	A Clark 95
302	(7)	2-03103	VERZEN 34 (D,F) (Maktoum Al Maktoum)	D Loder 4-9-5	D R McCabe 93
303	(5)	10-5430	CELESTIAL KEY 12 (D,F,G) (M Brodrick)	M Johnston 6-9-5	J Weaver 94
304	(3)	00-0145	WELTON ARSENAL 131 (D,F,G) (Brownes Feeds)	M Channon 4-8-11	R Hughes 90
305	(4)	4'0001	HIGHBORN 6 (D,F,G) (Investure RC OG 1990)	P Felgate 7-8-9	W Ryan 89
306	(2)	0-43010	PRIMO LARA 12 (D,F) (Thurso Leasing Ltd)	P Haslam 4-8-7	G Hind 90
307	(6)	2-51410	AERLEON JANE 12 (D,F,S) (P Locke)	J Gosden 3-8-5	L Dettori 98

Long handicap: Primo Lara 8-5

BETTING: 5-2 Star Of Zilzal, 3-1 Verzen, 9-2 Aerleon Jane, 6-1 Celestial Key, Highborn, 8-1 Welton Arsenal, 10-1 Primo Lara.

1995 HI NOD 5-9-0 L Charnock (4-1) M Camacho 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

STAR OF ZILZAL completed double beat Magnagrag 1l in 10-runner handicap at Epsom (1m 114yd, good to firm). VERZEN 5¼l 3rd of 8 to Centre Stalls in listed race at Kempton (1m, good) CELESTIAL KEY short-head and 2¼l 3rd of 7 to Phantom Quest in conditions race at Newbury (1m 1f, good to firm) on penultimate start. WELTON ARSENAL best effort this term beat Pengamon neck to 8-runner conditions race at Warwick (7f, good) HIGHBORN beat Madly Sharp 1l in 12-runner handicap at Newmarket (7f, good to firm) PRIMO LARA beat Drummer Gail Time ¾l in 14-runner handicap at Haydock (7f, good to firm) on penultimate start, with HIGHBORN 5¼l better off) 3¼l 9th. AERLEON JANE beat Alpine Tauri 1l in 7-runner handicap at Sandown (7f, good to soft) on penultimate start.
Selection: STAR OF ZILZAL (nap)

3.30 SASHA LYONS BIRTHDAY CLAIMING STAKES
(£6,316: 1m 2f 85yd) (11 runners)

401	(3)	605100	HAZARD A GUESS 50 (D,F,G,S) (Consulteo Ltd)	D Nicholls 6-9-4	Alex Greaves 92
402	(8)	220-110	NORTHERN FAN 28 (G) (Sprowston Group)	N Tinkler 4-9-2	K Darley 90
403	(6)	040040	CZARINA 27 (S) (Mrs S Collins)	C Brittain 5-8-11	B Doyle 93
404	(9)	6-22546	TEN PAST SIX 103 (F) (J Kennerley Mec)	J Hall-Mi Share 4-8-11	M Hills 89
405	(7)	000350	LET THE LUCKY 40 (G,S) (Miss B Duxbury)	Miss S Hall 7-8-5	Martin Dwyer (5) 90
406	(11)	4586006	NOBBY BARNES 36 (F,S) (E Inzizar)	E Inzizar 7-8-5	Jum Tinkler 66
407	(5)	350453	QUIET ARCH 7 (G) (R Cyzer)	C Cyzer 5-8-5	G Carter 77
408	(1)	5-40056	SAMMM 5 (B,G) (G Redmile)	S Gollings 3-8-5	K Fallon 96
409	(4)	4220090	WITHERWAY 8 (S Sampson)	R Hannon 3-8-5	Diane O'Neill 77
410	(2)	0000000	BROWNIE'S PROMISE 17 (V) (Eclipse Management Ltd)	M Britain 3-8-1	G Bardwell —
411	(10)	005000	REALMS OF GLORY 81 (D (Crowd.on)	P Mitchell 3-8-1	J Quinn 68

BETTING: 5-2 Hazard A Guess, 7-2 Ten Past Six, 5-1 Czarina, 6-1 Northern Fan, 7-1 Quiet Arch, 8-1 Let The Lucky, 10-1 others.

1995: MELLOTTIE 10-9-7 K Darley (10-11 fav) Mrs M Reveley 12 ran

FORM FOCUS

HAZARD A GUESS 7¼l 9th of 16 to Amrak Ajeeb in handicap at York (1m 2f 85yd, good) NORTHERN FAN beat Cashmere Lady ¾l in 10-runner amateur riders' handicap at Wolverhampton (AW, 1m 100yd) on penultimate start. CZARINA about 2¾l 4th of 6 to Damaitove in conditions race at Yarmouth (1m 2f, good to firm) on penultimate start. TEN PAST SIX 20¾l last of 6 to Canton Venture in handicap at Newcastle (1m 4f 93yd, firm) LET THE LUCKY best recent effort neck and 5l 3rd of 10 to Noble Spirit in apprentice jockeys' handicap at Haydock (1m 2f 120yd, good) QUIET ARCH short-head and ¾l 3rd of 13 to Evidence In Chief in claimer at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to firm) SAMMM 9¼l 5th of 9 to Namoodi in handicap at Haydock (1m 2f 120yd, good) on penultimate start.
Selection: HAZARD A GUESS

4.00 GREEN HOWARDS CUP
(Nursery handicap: 2-Y-O: £6,992: 7f 202yd) (17 runners)

501	(3)	104402	FLETCHER 31 (F) (HRH Prince Fahd Salman)	P Cole 9-7	T Quinn 96
502	(11)	514	SHIMAZU 91 (G) (Sheikh Mohammed)	J Gosden 9-3	L Dettori 89
503	(2)	514	MR BOMBASTIQUE 68 (F) (K Al-Said)	B Hills 9-2	M Hills 90
504	(9)	0653	INDIFFERENT GUY 21 (W Gredley)	C Brittain 9-1	B Doyle 89
505	(6)	151363	NORTHERN SUN 14 (F) (T Murray)	T Mitt 9-0	J Reid 95
506	(5)	366110	GENERAL'S STAR 28 (V,CD,G) (S Sahali)	M Stoute 8-13	K Darley 96
507	(14)	053333	MARADI 21 (H Al Maktoum)	D Morley 8-8	R Hills 89
508	(1)	66102	LOVE HAS NO PRIDE 14 (F) (Miss L Regis)	R Hannon 9-7	Diane O'Neill 95
509	(15)	623001	IMPERIAL DR METRIC 17 (D,F) (Clayton Bagley Pmrs)	J Berry 8-7	G Carter 95
510	(16)	532323	SANDBAGGEDAGAIN 20 (BF) (Mrs C Hanbury)	M W Easterby 8-5	J Carroll 96
511	(7)	2203	PRINCESS TOPAZ 28 (S Crown)	C Cyzer 8-3	J Quinn 96
512	(13)	0236	HURSILL DANCER 20 (Hursill Lodge Farm)	J Watts 8-1	J F Egan 96
513	(17)	405	HIGHWAY ROBBER 54 (J Smith)	J Eustace 8-1	Martin Dwyer (5) 91
514	(8)	226461	SAMUGURS 15 (G) (Mugs N Us)	R Williams 7-11	D Wright (3) 95
515	(4)	034631	GIPSY PRINCESS 19 (B,F) (Lady Manton)	M W Easterby 7-10	L Charnock 93
516	(12)	0555	AUCTION HALL 16 (Chereley Park Stud)	M Bell 7-10	R Mullen (7) 94
517	(10)	45046	FLOATING DEVON 56 (C Calvert)	T Easterby 7-10	G Bardwell 90

Long handicap: Floating Devon 7-1

BETTING: 5-1 Shimazu, 6-1 Love Has No Pride, 8-1 Fletcher, 8-1 Sandbagged Again, Northern Sun, 10-1 Mr Bombastique, Princess Topaz, 12-1 General's Star, Imperial Dr Metric, Maradi, 14-1 others

1995: WEET-A-MINUTE 9-3 L Dettori (13-2) R Hollinshead 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

FLETCHER 1l 2nd of 11 to Sheer Fata in nursery at Bath (1m, good to firm) SHIMAZU beat HURSILL DANCER (16lb better off) 8l in 10-runner maiden at Southwell (AW, 7f) on penultimate start, with FLOATING DEVON (21lb better off) about 6¼l 5th and GENERAL'S STAR (4lb better off) 15l 6th. MR BOMBASTIQUE beat Double-U ¾l in 7-runner auction maiden at Chepstow (6f, good to firm) on penultimate start. INDIFFERENT GUY 5¾l 3rd of 15 to High Roller in maiden at Yarmouth (1m good to firm) GENERAL'S STAR beat Party Romance 3¼l in 11-runner nursery over course and distance (good) with MARADI (7lb better off) ¾l 3rd of 12 to Can Can Lady in nursery at Yarmouth (1m, good to firm) IMPERIAL DR METRIC beat Time Can Tell ¾l in claimer at Musselburgh (1m, good to firm) SANDBAGGED-AGAIN 1l 2nd of 17 to Al Adna in nursery at Doncaster (1m, good to firm) on penultimate start with PRINCESS TOPAZ (2lb better off) 2l 3rd and GENERAL'S STAR (3lb better off) 6¼l 5th
Selection: GENERAL'S STAR

4.30 BADGER HILL APPRENTICE HANDICAP
(£7,096: 1m 3f 195yd) (22 runners)

601	(3)	0-40000	DREAMS END 36 (D,G,S) (T Price)	P Bowen 8-10-0	R Cody-Boutcher (7) 94
602	(9)	032232	VOILA PREMIERE 4 (BF,F) (B Gaule)	M Tompkins 4-9-10	R Mullen (3) 94
603	(16)	2203-30	KALOU 22 (D,F) (Sir Tatton Sykes)	W Biby 5-9-9	P Fessey 94
604	(2)	563214	TRILBY 54 (D,F) (HRH Prince Fahd Salman)	P Cole 3-9-6	David O'Neill (7) 90
605	(19)	0-22351	AMADOUR 8 (D,G) (D Grierson)	P Mitchell 3-9-5 (5ex)	D Griffiths 87
606	(21)	36-6856	HOME COUNTIES 55 (F,S) (Rory Dennis Ltd)	D Moffatt 7-9-4	C Adamson 89
607	(22)	111210-	CLAIRESWAIN 157 (F,S) (Claire and Beryl)	M Tompkins 4-9-2	G Milligan (3) 89
608	(20)	33-5804	KARISMA 94 (D Roper)	Denys Smith 3-9-2	A Daly 89
609	(6)	001206	RING OF VISION 21 (F) (P Savill)	Mrs M Reveley 4-9-1	G Lee 89
610	(12)	51050-4	MAD MILITANT 19 (D,F,G) (E Nicholls)	A Sproule 7-8-13	D Denby (5) 89
611	(4)	0-32050	MASTER HYDE 19 (V,D,F,G) (D Callaghan)	W Storry 7-8-12	D Sweeney (3) 93
612	(15)	161511	KRISTAL BREEZE 8 (D,F,G,S) (S Lamb)	W Muir 4-8-12 (5ex)	J Widdrington (5) 88
613	(8)	101121	GLOW FORUM 19 (D,F,G,S) (A Smith)	L Montague Hall 5-8-10	Martin Dwyer 98
614	(17)	015060	CLAIRE'S DANCER 23 (G) (Mrs C Hollewood)	4 Tunnell 3-8-10	C Webb (5) 86
615	(13)	206015	DOUBLE ECHO 9 (C,D,F,G,S) (Mrs J Lee)	J Bethell 8-8-9	G Faulkner (3) 90
616	(18)	465400	HASTA LA VISTA 31 (B,D,F,G) (R Hodgson)	M W Easterby 8-8-9	G Parkin 86
617	(14)	000401	EL BARDADOR 22 (B,F) (The Spotted Hen)	W Jones 3-8-8	P Roberts 92
618	(11)	050003	ASHOVER 3 (D,F,G,S) (T Cain)	T Baron 6-8-7	J Dennis (5) 92
619	(7)	560020	ROCK THE BARNEY 8 (D,F,F,G) (Mrs S Marks)	P Bengoyne 7-8-7	J Bosley (7) 92
620	(5)	412500	VOICES IN THE SKY 28 (D,F) (J Carne)	A Newcombe 5-8-6	R Fitench (5) 90
621	(10)	615315	GOLD DESIRE 22 (C,F,S) (Mentmore Lodge RC)	M Pelosse 8-8-6	J Fowle (7) 63
622	(1)	030210	DAUPHIN 29 (D,G) (Mrs R Brown)	W Musson 5-7-10	M Baird 90

BETTING: 8-1 Voila Premiere, 9-1 Ashover, 10-1 Kristal Breeze, Mad Militant 12-1 Amadour, Double Echo, Glow Forum, Gold Desire 14-1 Dreams End, Hasta La Vista, Trilby, 16-1 others

1995: AYUNU 4-9-3 A Daly (5-1 fav) S Williams 21 ran

FORM FOCUS

VOILA PREMIERE 1l 2nd of 18 to Sugar Hill in handicap at Haydock (1m 4f, soft) KALOU head and 2l 3rd of 19 to Far Ahead in handicap at Thirsk (1m 4f, good to firm) on penultimate start, with MASTER HYDE (2lb better off) head and 3l 4th ASHOVER (7lb better off) 10l 14th and DOUBLE ECHO (10lb worse off) 7l 17th. TRILBY beat Dona Isabel head in 9-runner handicap at Thirsk (1m 4f, good to firm) on penultimate start. AMADOUR beat Soldier Hill head in 16-runner maiden handicap at Brighton (1m 4f, good) HOME COUNTIES about 1¾l last of 6 to Reaganesque in apprentice jockeys' handicap at Haydock (1m 4f, good to firm) KARISMA 10¾l 4th of 12 to Berlin Blue in handicap at Ripon (1m 4f 60yd, good) MAD MILITANT 3¼l 4th of 9 to Tescanoe in handicap at Catterick (1m 4f, good to firm) with MASTER HYDE (2lb better off) 4¼l 7th. KRISTAL BREEZE beat Tallulah Belle 3¼l in 19-runner handicap at Brighton (1m 2f, good) GLOW FORUM beat Ali On 5l in 12-runner handicap at Wolverhampton (AW, 1m 4f).
Selection: GENERAL'S STAR

WINCANTON

THUNDERER

2.10 Kesanta. 2.40 Southerly Gale. 3.10 Indrapura. 3.40 Lake Of Loughrea. 4.10 Cointosser. 4.40 Courbaril.

GOING: FIRM — SIS

2.10 HATHERLEIGH MARES ONLY MAIDEN HURDLE
(£2,268: 2m 6f) (4 runners)

1		0245	GALATASORI JANE 86	P Nicholls 6-11-0	D Barrows (7) —
2		2/U2	KESANTA 11	W G M Turner 6-11-0	R Dunwoody (5)
3		5524	UP THE TEMPO 43	Paddy Farrell 7-11-0	J Culloty 89
4		2	KYMIN 44	D Murray Smith 4-10-13	A P McCoy 96

5-4 Kesanta, 2-1 Balakiroo Jane, 11-4 Kymin, 16-1 Up The Tempo.

2.40 OAK CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP CHASE
(£2,804: 3m 1f 110yd) (7)

1	-212	SOUTHERLY GALE 66 (BF,F)	M Pipe 9-11-12	G Supple (4)	98
2	211-	MAREMMA GALE 140 (B,C,F,S)	N Mitchell 8-11-10	K Gaule	98
3	-PPP	BANNTOWN HILL 31 (B,CD,F,G,S)	M Pipe 7-11-7	D Walsh	93
4	4/24-	DRUMMER LEAKER (F)	K Bailey 7-11-0	T J Murphy	96
5	56-5	FOXBORNE 11 (D,F,G)	R Price 10-10-6	D Fortt (5)	
6	-53P	L'UOMO PIU 11 (N,F,G,S)	A Barrow 12-10-3	T Dascombe	92
7	0145	TURPIN'S GREEN 9 (F,G)	J Klug 13-10-0	J Culloty	90

7-4 Southerly Gale, 5-2 Maremma Gale, 3-1 Drumcullen, 8-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: M Pipe, 31 winners from 115 runners, Mrs N Dutfield, 4 from 22, 18.2%, R Nicholls, 18 from 105, 16.2%, J King, 7 from 41, 17.1%, P Hobbs, 17 from 105, 17.1%; K Bailey, 8 from 51, 15.7%.

JOCKEYS: D Barrows, 3 from 8 rides, 37.5%, R Dunwoody, 28 from 118, 23.7%; J Osborne, 12 from 56, 21.4%; A P McCoy, 10 from 58, 17.2%; W McFarland, 3 from 24, 12.5%; T Dascombe, 4 from 37, 10.8%

LUDLOW

THUNDERER

2.20 Lac De Gras. 2.50 Holy Wanderer. 3.20 Tallywagger. 3.50 Blue Raven. 4.20 Sigma Run. 4.50 Crackling Frost. 5.20 Andsome Boy.

GOING: FIRM — SIS

2.20 SCANIA 4-SERIES HORSEPOWER SELLING HURDLE HANDICAP
(£1,968: 2m 5f 110yd) (6 runners)

1		4-08	DANE ROSE 11 (F,B)	M Sheppard 10-11-10	A Maguire
2		4326	KING OF BABYLON 20	F Jordan 4-11-9	L Aspell (3)
3		P52P	LAC DE GRAS 24	R Curtis 5-11-3	D Morris
4		4020	THEY ALL FORGOT ME 20 (F,G)	A Carroll 9-10-13	Miss C Dyson
5		40R	SIESTA TIME 9	D Burchell 6-10-7	D J Burchell
6		0/6-	AWESTRUCK 40F (B)	B Preece 6-10-6	G Hogan (3)

2-1 Siesta Time, 9-4 King Of Babylon, 5-1 Lac De Gras, Dave Rose, 8-1 others

2.50 KNIGHTON TRUCKS FOR SCANIA NOVICES CHASE
(£3,009: 2m) (5)

1		P-3P	RYTON RUN 8 (F,G)	Mr S Odell 11-11-9	B Fenton
2		56PV	CHAPEL OF BARRAS 623 (G,S)	B Gee 7-11-5	B Powell
3		-F03	HOLY WANDERER 4 (F,G)	T George 7-11-5	G Hogan (3)
4		5P-P	LAURA LYE 12	B De Haan 6-11-0	J Railton
5		0PP-	TENAYESTELIGH 143 (G)	D Marks 8-11-0	J A McCarthy

4-7 Holy Wanderer, 4-1 Tenayestelligh, 9-2 Ryton Run, 10-1 others

3.20 RADIO SHROPSHIRE STAYERS HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,787: 3m 2f 110yd) (6)

1		-4F1	TALLYWAGGER 19 (D,F,G)	G Moore 9-12-0	N Bentley
2		3-54	DON DU CADRAN 14 (B,G)	T Forster 7-10-7	A Thornton
3		0013	HOLY JOE 12 (C,F,G,S)	D Burchell 14-10-7	D J Burchell
4		-344	STORM DRUM 11 (C,F,G,S)	K Bailey 7-10-0	Mr R Walsley (7)
5		/PP-	NATHAN BLAKE 271P (B,C,F,G)	W G M Turner 11-10-0	J Power (7)
6		1324	GEORGE ASHFORD 28 (F,G)	P Johnson 6-10-0	A S Smith

6-4 Tallywagger, 3-1 Holy Joe, 5-1 Don Du Cadran, George Ashford, 7-1 Storm Drum, 16-1 Nathan Blake

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Ludlow 3.20 Don Du Cadran. 5.20 Little Kenny. York: 3.30 Brownie's Promise. 4.00 General's Star

3.10 SOUTH-WEST RACING CLUB NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,303: 2m) (5)

1		111	INDRAPURA 19 (F)	M Pipe 4-11-13	C Maude 98
2		006-	SAILEP 180	R Hodges 4-11-4	T Dascombe (3) 93
3		-522	CANARY FALCON 35	R O'Sullivan 5-11-1	P Holley 97
4		54R-	INDIAN CROWN 156	N Thomson 6-10-0	J Culloty 89
5		00-0	TIBBS BIN 12	A Barrow 7-10-0	Mr R Thornton (7) —

4-6 Indrapura, 11-4 Canary Falcon, 5-1 Sailep, 12-1 Indian Crown, 33-1 Tibbs Bin

3.40 POT BLACK HANDICAP CHASE
(£4,146: 2m 5f) (4)

1		13-F	LAKE OF LOUGHREA 8 (F,G)	K Bailey 6-11-10	C O'Dwyer 98
2		1-1F	HERBERT BUCHANAN 11 (BF,D,F,G)	P Nicholls 6-11-4	A P McCoy 98
3		P211	BIT OF A TOUCH 11 (D,G,S)	R Frost 10-10-9	J Frost 90
4		6P53	GARISH 7 (F,G)	B Somers 11-10-0	Mr R Thornton (7) 65

6-4 Herbert Buchanan, 7-4 Bit Of A Touch, 5-2 Lake Of Loughrea, 33-1 Garish

4.10 SHAFTESBURY JUVENILE NOVICES CLAIMING HURDLE
(£2,320: 2m) (6)

1		33	YELLOW DRAGON 24	B Pearce 11-1	K Gaule (5) —
2		3124	BEN BOWDEN 8 (F)	M Blanshard 10-13	J Osborne —
3		1	COINTOSSER 7 (F)	M Pipe 10-12	S Wynne —
4			PROVE THE POINT 29F	Mrs P Dutfield 10-8	P Holley —
5		2	INDRA 7	P Murphy 10-5	W McFarland —
6		60	REMEMBER STAR 19	A Smith 10-5	F Jousset —

5-4 Cointosser, 7-4 Indra, 5-1 Ben Bowden, Yellow Dragon, 20-1 Prove The Point, 33-1 Remember Star

4.40 WINCANTON NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,233: 2m 6f) (5)

1		121	COURBARIL 8 (F,G)	M Pipe 4-11-12	C Maude (5)
2		PU6/	ASK HARRY 500	R Atner 5-10-9	P Henley (5) —
3		F-3D	CHARGED 11 (F,G)	P Hobbs 7-10-9	A P McCoy 96
4		44P3	MIRAMARE 24	C Popham 6-10-9	T Dascombe (3) 84
5		00-	LADY NESS 224	J Tuck 5-10-4	R Bellamy 90

4-9 Courbaril, 4-1 Charged, 7-1 Miramare, 14-1 Ask Harry, 25-1 Lady Ness

3.50 SCANIA 1996 TRUCK OF THE YEAR TROPHY NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,386: 2m 4f) (4)

1		2231	BLUE RAVEN 7 (F)	D Brace 5-12-3 (7ex)	A Maguire
2		60-4	ON THE TEAR 26	F Lloyd 10-10-4	C Llewellyn
3		-345	SCRIPT 12 (F)	J Jenkins 5-10-4	W Marston
4		/0-3	LITTLE BY LITTLE 25 (F)	B Preece 6-10-3	A Thornton

2-5 Blue Raven, 4-1 Script, 8-1 On The Tow, Little By Little

4.20 SCANIA 4-SERIES INTERNATIONAL CHALLENGE NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,192: 2m) (4)

1	P60-	JON'S CHOICE 68F	B Preece 8-10-12	C Llewellyn
2	6U0-	SIGMA RUN 157 (G)	J Edwards 7-10-12	T Hazlett
3		SUPERENSIS 22F	John Berry 6-10-12	T Wheeler
4	P/	ANDY COIN 37F	W Brisbourne 6-10-7	J Tizzy

4-11 Sigma Run, 3-1 Superence, 8-1 Jon's Choice, 33-1 Andy Coin.

4.50 KNIGHTON TRUCKS SCANIA KNOW-HOW TROPHY HANDICAP CHASE
(£2,682: 2m 4f) (3)

FOOTBALL: YOUNGSTERS' PROGRESS LEAVES FORMER ENGLAND PLAYER FACING UNCERTAIN FUTURE

Rocastle adrift as forgotten man of Stamford Bridge

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

CHELSEA have made light of their extensive injury problems this season, rising to sixth place in the FA Carling Premiership despite an ever-crowded treatment room. They have done it, too, without the help of David Rocastle, a sublimely-talented midfield player at his peak, yet one who, apparently, now has no more than a bit-part role in the reserves.

Unlike many of his team-mates, Rocastle, 29, has been fit, ready and available for selection by Ruud Gullit, the Chelsea player-manager. As the casualties have mounted at Stamford Bridge, so has his expectation of a return. He has not played since breaking a toe in the 3-0 defeat against Blackburn Rovers a year ago — his solitary appearance last season.

Yet the call has not come. "I've been back in training since June and not missed a day," he said. "I don't really know what else I can do to get a first-team place. I'm trying not to feel sorry for myself, but it's very disappointing."

Rocastle's career has gone into gradual decline since his heyday at Arsenal, where he won winner's medals in the league championship, twice, and the Littlewoods Cup. He was also capped 14 times by England. However, a move to Leeds United never worked out and neither did his switch to Manchester City, in a swap deal involving David White worth another £2 million, 16 months later. He joined Chelsea for £1.25 million two years ago, but has since been plagued by injuries and loss of form, restricting him to only 40 appearances. He scored two goals in the reserves' 4-2 win over Brighton on Monday, in the Avon Insurance Combination, but still appears to be on the outside looking in.

"I suppose it's time to start thinking about my future," Rocastle, who has 18 months left on his contract, said. "I still feel I can do a job here and all I want is to be given a chance. I don't think Ruud has really seen me play."

In contrast — and suggesting that it may be in Rocastle's best interests to look elsewhere — Gullit has given the nod of approval to Jody Morris, 17, a midfield player, and Mark Nicholls, 19, a striker, by promoting them from Chelsea's youth ranks.

Morris has won honours with the England schoolboy and youth sides, captaining the under-17s; he made his debut for the under-21s when he came on as a substitute in the 0-0 draw against Poland at Molineux on Tuesday night; and has played seven times for Chelsea this season, scoring one goal.

"There's been a lot of nice things said about me and Mark and it's great that the manager is showing he's prepared to give a chance to the youngsters," Morris said. "We've got plenty of good young players here and I'm sure you might see a few more of them before the season is out."

Morris, a former Stamford Bridge ballboy, like Nicholls, still struggles to take in his swift progress. "I'd hoped to play in a few pre-season games, but I didn't really expect to be starting in the first team," he said. "It's great experience, each game is a bonus."

Glenn Hoddle, the former Chelsea manager, gave him every encouragement before he left to become England coach. "He always let us train with the senior players and, by doing that, you can't help but improve," Morris said. "You are getting good advice every day and it's got to make you a better player."

High hopes and a higher profile, perhaps, but Morris is keeping a sensible perspective. "I don't think it will affect me," he said. "There's enough people here to put you back in your place if you get any big-time ideas. They all make sure you don't get out of your pram."

Wolverhampton Wanderers have signed Jens Dowe, the German midfield player, on loan until the end of the season. They will pay SV Hamburg £200,000 for his services for the remainder of this campaign and a further £1 million if he then continues his career at Molineux.

SHAUN BOTTERILL/ALLSPORT



Rocastle was a familiar figure during his heyday with Arsenal and England

Perez aims to make Romario pay

Tunku Varadarajan on a mismatch of the day coming up in the Spanish first division

They make the most telling contrast in Spanish football. One, an international celebrity and World Cup winner; the other, a nonentity outside his small hometown. One, the veteran of many sweetly-struck goals; the other, a 21-year-old playing his first season in the Spanish first division. One is paid £2,300,000 for a year's work, making him the best-paid footballer in Spain; the other earns only £20,000, a good £13,000 less than any other player in the first division.

In football terms, Romario and Antonio Alvarez Pérez come from different planets, perhaps even from different solar systems. Yet they play in the same league and will soon square up against each other on the same turf.

Romario, the Brazil forward, is a moody genius who plays for upmarket Valencia and lives in a giant hilltop mansion some 25 miles inland from the Mediterranean city. Alvarez, known to his fans and mother as Ito, plays for Extremadura, the minnows of the Spanish league. The second of four brothers, he lives with his parents and milks the family's 20 cows every day.

A simple fact should put the contrast between the two still more starkly. Extremadura's annual budget is just £1 million more than Romario's annual salary. But does all this faze young Ito? "No, not any more. When I stepped onto the pitch for the first time and faced all these multi-million-peseta signings, I was impressed. Now, I couldn't care less."

Ito was born and raised in Almendralejo, the town of 25,000 people whose unfancied football team is playing for the first time in the Spanish first division. The fairy-tale promotion story has, this season, turned slightly sour, with six defeats in their six games. But Ito has not lost faith. "A victory, surely, is only a matter of time. Then, on a roll, who can tell what will happen."

The young footballer is philosophical about his status as the worst-paid player in the league. "I do what I love to do every day, and on top of that I'm paid for it. My unemployed friends all tell me that I'm privileged." Others, however, have more sharp-edged observations to make. Ironically, one of them is the president of Extremadura, Pedro Nieto.

Nieto said: "My boy is as professional as Romario is. And I'm sure that he lives more sportingly than the Brazilian." Nonetheless, Ito is still being paid on the terms of his old three-year contract, concluded when Extremadura were in the second division. Why has the player's salary not been raised a wee bit? "We just haven't got the cash," Nieto said.

Spain's first division is now strewn thick with extravagantly-paid foreign stars, like Romario. The Brazilian does not even have to pay rent for his villa as it has been lent to him by a rich Valencia supporter. There are no cows to milk, of course, unlike at Ito's place. But Ito has no bodyguards. Romario has several, who guard him round the clock. There's food for thought in that.

Impressive display puts Butt in frame

BY RICHARD HOBSON

PETER TAYLOR, the England Under-21 manager, believes that Nicky Butt is close to joining his club colleagues, David Beckham and Gary Neville, in the senior ranks after a resourceful performance against Poland Under-21 on an extraordinary night at Molineux on Tuesday. "I have been impressed with his attitude and he played very well," Taylor said.

Wolverhampton Wanderers officials convened yesterday morning to discuss the way a parcel of sandwiches, wrapped in silver foil and deposited in a wastepaper basket in the John Ireland Stand, provoked a bomb scare and caused a 2¼-hour delay.

The European Under-21 Championship group two qualifying match finally kicked off at 10pm in front of 3,133 patient spectators who had waited outside the ground in driving rain until an army bomb disposal unit conducted a controlled explosion shortly after 9pm.

Taylor said from the outset that he wanted the game to go ahead last night but Edward Lorens, the Poland manager, felt originally that it should have been postponed until yesterday morning. Lorens eventually recognised the logistical difficulties of such a switch but admitted that his players did little more than sit anxiously waiting.

It was no surprise, therefore, that England started the stronger, and had the two best chances of the 0-0 draw. Riccardo Scimeca, of Aston Villa, had a penalty saved, and Emile Heskey, the Leicester City forward, hit a post.

Derby give McGrath chance to leave Villa Park

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

DERBY County have emerged as the front-runners in the race to sign Aston Villa's unsettled central defender, Paul McGrath. The Derby manager, Jim Smith, had talks with the Ireland international last night and is hoping to complete the deal in time for McGrath to make his debut against Newcastle United at the Baseball Ground on Saturday.

Derby have agreed to meet the £200,000 transfer fee that Villa are demanding for the 36-year-old, but it is thought that meeting McGrath's personal demands could prove to be a stumbling block. Coventry City, managed by Ron Atkinson, for whom McGrath played at Villa and, before that, at Manchester United, plus two unnamed clubs from the Nationwide League first division have also asked to be kept informed of developments.

Southampton's attempt to sign the Norwegian striker, Thor-Andre Flo, collapsed yesterday because his club, SK Brann, want more money than the £1 million Southampton have offered. Flo, 24, has trained with the south coast club, agreed personal terms and is anxious to join his countrymen, Claus Lundekvam and Egil Ostenstadt, at The Dell.

Graeme Souness, the Southampton manager, has spent £2.7 million on Ostenstadt, Lundekvam, Eyal Berkowitz, of Israel, Robbie Slater and Richard Dryden recently and has also agreed terms with Galatasaray, his former club, for the Dutch defender, Ulrich van Gobbel, and the American goalkeeper, Brad Freidel, for a combined fee of £2.3 million.

John Aldridge was yesterday recognised as the highest-scoring British player since the war, without kicking a ball. According to Ray Spiller, secretary of the Association of Football Statisticians, previous totals had ignored seven goals Aldridge scored in the Spanish Cup during his time at Real Sociedad. His total is now given as 458 goals, three more than the previous record-holder, Jimmy Greaves.

Mark Draper, the Aston Villa midfield player, has been suspended for one match after being dismissed for two bookable offences during last week's defeat at Newcastle United. He will miss the fixture with Leeds United on October 19. Darren Ferguson, of Wolverhampton Wanderers, has been banned for three games after his sending-off against Bolton Wanderers last week and will now miss matches with Port Vale, Manchester City and Huddersfield Town.

RUGBY UNION

Clubs delay breakaway until after secret talks

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE Rugby Football Union (RFU) and leading English clubs will meet tomorrow at a secret venue in what must surely be the make-or-break discussions upon which so much depends elsewhere. Should the two parties arrive at a working agreement — and both are optimistic — then Scotland and Ireland could feel the knock-on effect.

Tomorrow is also the date set by the English Professional Rugby Union Clubs (Epruc) for departure from the RFU, but Donald Kerr, the Epruc chairman, said yesterday that "in the light of negotiations now proceeding and to emphasise our commitment to a successful outcome, it has been agreed that the guideline breakaway date of October 11 is postponed."

Cynics may interpret this as a sign of weakness by the clubs, who would prefer it to be regarded as conciliatory. But as one RFU official put it, "If we do not sort something out, we deserve to be shot." Both sides need the other and, if they can reach agreement, it could help in regard to exiled Scots, Irish and Welsh players who want to appear in representative teams yet are tied, by contract, to club requirements in England.

Five London Irish players, for example, are said to be in breach of contract after training with their provinces in preparation for the Heineken Cup, and two of them, Victor Costello and Malcolm O'Kelly, have been named in the Leinster team to play Llanelli on Saturday. Jeremy Davidson and David Humphreys are expected to be named by Ulster today, as is Gabriel Fulcher, for Munster, and there may not be much sympathy for London Irish, who initially decided to release players but changed their minds at the players' request.

The Scotland national squad have achieved what their representatives describe as a "player-friendly contract" with the Scottish Rugby Union and most have signed for a three-year period. Union officials have yet to meet with the 12 England-based Scots to resolve their difficulties. They are due to meet next week.

Meanwhile, the England squad trained at Bisham Abbey yesterday with Jon Sleightholme considering the ups and downs of a sporting career. He played on the right wing of a notional England XV but will not play in Bath's team against Edinburgh in the Heineken Cup. Bath prefer Jason Robinson on one flank with Adedayo Adebayo (who also worked with the England XV) on the other.



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Italy provide assistance for Bosnia

ITALY will play an international football match against Bosnia-Herzegovina in Sarajevo next month. Walter Veltroni, Italy's deputy prime minister, will accompany the squad to Sarajevo for the match on November 6.

Mario Pescante, head of the Italian Olympic Committee, said: "The match at Sarajevo stadium is another major step towards the rebirth of sport in a country which has suffered one of the most horrifying civil wars."

The country of Italy has been instrumental in assisting Bosnia's World Cup campaign — the Italian football federation has offered the use of Bologna's stadium for all Bosnia's "home" matches, the first having taken place on Tuesday night, against Croatia, which Bosnia lost 4-1.

Primo Nebiolo, the Italian head of the International Athletic Amateur Federation (IAAF), organised the first major athletics event there last month, in the Solidarity Meeting for Sarajevo. IAAF money helped to rebuild the Kosevo stadium in the Bosnian capital that will also host the football match.

FOOTBALL RESULTS

WORLD CUP: European qualifying group four: Estonia v Scotland — match abandoned after Estonia team failed to take the field (in Tallinn). Group nine: Albania 0 Portugal 3 (in Tirana).
EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP: Qualifying group nine: Albania 2 Portugal 4 (in Tirana).

Tuesday's late results

EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP: Qualifying group one: Bosnia 3 Croatia 1 (at Imola). Group two: England 0 Poland 0 (at Molineux). Group four: Sweden 4 Austria 1 (in Gavle). Group five: Israel 1 Russia 0 (in Herzliya). Group seven: San Marino 1 Belgium 5 (in San Marino). Group eight: Ireland 4 Macedonia 0 (at Dalymount Park).
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Huddersfield Town 3 Birmingham City 0. Second division: Peterborough United 1 Notts County 3; Wrexham 2 Shrewsbury Town 1.
SCOTTISH LEAGUE CHALLENGE CUP: Semi-final: St Johnstone 4 Montrose 2
WORLD CUP: European qualifying group one: Bosnia 1 Croatia 4 (in Bologna). Group five: Luxembourg 1 Bulgaria 2 (in Luxembourg). South American qualifying group: Uruguay 1 Bolivia 0 (in Montevideo)
DUTCH LEAGUE: PSV Eindhoven 2 Twente Enschede 0; Fortuna Sittard 0 De Graafschap Doetinchem 3.
SPALDING CUP: First round, first leg: Bath 0 Welling 2; Dover 2 Rushden and Diamonds 3; Halifax 0 Altrincham 0; Kettering 1 Slough 0; Stalybridge 1 Telford 1
PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Oldham Athletic 1 Nottingham Forest 1; Sheffield Wednesday 3 Leeds United 3. First division: Sheffield United 2 Port Vale 1. Second division: Manchester City 0 Grimsby Town 2; Rotherham United 1 Stockport County 2. Third division: Walsall 1 Scarborough 1.
UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Bamber Bridge 1 Barrow 3; Chorley 4 Runcorn 0; Leek 1 Buxton 1. First division: Atherton LR 0 Great Harwood 1; Curzon Ashton 3 Droylsden 3; Flixton 0 Leigh 1; Lincoln United 2 Eastwood Town 1; Matlock Town 2 Congleton 0; Netherfield 0 Gretna 1; Stocksbridge PS 2 Workington 1; Warrington 0 Ashton United 4; Workington 1 Radcliffe 1
ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Staines 0 Chertsey 0. First division: Abingdon Town 0 Walton and Hersham 0, Marlow 0 Leyton Pennant 1; Wokingham 1 Molesey 2
Guardian Insurance Cup: First round: Boreham Wood 3 Edgware 2.
LEAGUE OF WALES: Bangor City 3 Rhyl 0; Barry 6 Carmarthen Town 0; Caersws 0 Ebbw Vale 5; Flint Town 0 Connah's Quay 2; Llansantffraid 3 Aberystwyth 2.
WILKINSON SWORD LEAGUE CUP: Semi-final: Crusaders 1 Linfield 1 (aet; 1-1 after 90min).
COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ashford 4 Feltham 0.
FA CARLSBERG VASE: Second qualifying round replays: Bootle 0 Eccleshill 2; Tiptree 2 Stanway 0; Southwick 2 Mile Oak 0; Herne Bay 4 Shoreham 0; Glossop North End 0 Burscough 3; Shotton Comrades 3 Washington 1; South Shields 4 Penrith 3; Rocester 2 Dunkirk 2; Mirrlees Blackstone 3 Witham 3. St Neots 3 Stamford 4; Brook House 2 Clapton 3
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Millwall 0 Ipswich 4
FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Chester-le-Street 1 Whickham 2
WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Tunbridge Wells 3 Canterbury 0
JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Walton 2 Hadleigh 1; Woodbridge 0 Sudbury 1; Diss 3 Gorleston 1
JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Gosport 3 Totton 1, Thatcham 5 Bournemouth 1; East Cowes 2 Andover 2.
MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Arlesey 4 Hoddesdon 1
NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Glasshoughton Welfare 1 Ossett Albion 0; Liversedge 3 Armthorpe Welfare 0; Thackley 2 Hallam 1, Ossett Town 1 Pontefract Colls 0, North Ferriby 3 Pickering 0.
LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Senior Cup: Group D: Barkingside 1 Brimsdown 0
FA YOUTH CUP: First qualifying round: Farsley Celtic 1 Bolton 4; Walsall Wood 1 Northwich 1; Marine 0 Bury 1; Wisbech 1 Cambridge 5
SCHOOLS MATCHES: Fuji Films Trophy: Second round: Barnsley 6 Doncaster 2; Plymouth 5 Yeovil 1. Tyne and Wear League: Under-15: Newcastle 4 North Tyneside 1; Sunderland 6 Chester-le-Street 0. Under-14: Newcastle 2 North Tyneside 1; Sunderland 4 Chester-le-Street 3.
OTHER MATCH: Sutton United 0 West Ham United 4

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

FA CARLSBERG VASE: Second qualifying round replay: Sandiacre v Ashfield.

FA YOUTH CUP: First qualifying round: Cambridge City v Wivenhoe; St Albans v Stevenage, Corinthian v Walton and Hersham; Southwick v Shoreham, Yeovil v Witney; Northampton v Gornal A. First qualifying round replays: Ipswich v Hornchurch; Hartlepool v Carlisle

SCHOOLS MATCHES: English Schools Fuji Film Trophy: Second round: Chesterfield v Leicester (at Chesterfield FC, 7.0), Newport v Hereford (at Caldicott Town); North Devon v North Somerset (at Bideford Town); Worksop v Derby (at Harworth CW, 7.15) Representative match: Cirencester Youth v Wiltshire under-16 (at Cirencester FC)

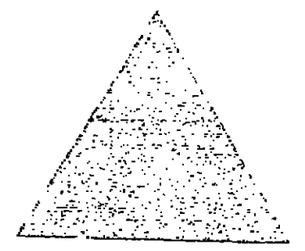
RUGBY LEAGUE

Tour matches
Cumbria v Australian Aboriginals (at Barrow, 7.30)
Lion Red Cup XIII v Great Britain XIII (at Carlaw Park, Auckland, 7.30am)...

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Leopards v Derby (7.0).
GOLF: Alfred Dunhill Cup (at St Andrews).
ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Newcastle v Cardiff (7.30); Basingstoke v Nottingham (8.0)
SPEEDWAY: Individual: Billy Sanders International Trophy (at Ipswich, 7.30)
Conference League: Sheffield v Berwick (7.45).
TENNIS: LTA satellite tournament (in Sheffield).

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Dilemma of the sporting victims forced to retire hurt

Can there be a sadder indictment of British sport this week than the plight of the cricketer, Graham Dilley? The former England fast bowler, forced into retirement with a back injury, lined up on Monday to sign on for the dole. At 37, the man who played for his country in 41 Tests says he has not been able to find a job since he was made redundant as the Surrey second-team coach seven months ago.

"It never crossed my mind that one day cricket would not be there for me," he said forlornly. "I left school with next to no qualifications and went straight into cricket as a teenager. Right now I would do anything legal."

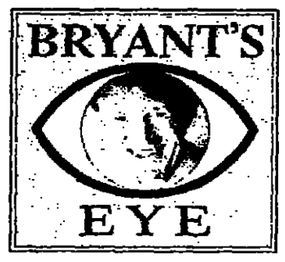
Dilley is on a path trodden sadly by thousands before him – by all those sportsmen who spent their careers so busily concentrating on the next race, the next game, the next training session, that they never spared a thought as to how they might live after the final whistle. Yet you don't need the fortune-telling powers of Madam Vasso to predict: "I see the future, and the day will come when you will no longer be able to earn your living playing this game . . ." The trouble is that, in a world where the importance of sport has become so distorted, it is increasingly difficult to get the sportsmen to think about life after sport.

'Right now I would do anything that is legal'

Traditionally, this stark fact of sporting life is one that has been hopelessly overlooked in Britain. There was a time when sport was something you did and enjoyed before getting on with the real business of the rest of your life. University students of the Fifties and Sixties could indulge their sporting careers while still qualifying academically. It was a system that threw up athletes who could attack the four-minute mile in their leisure time and walk away to glittering careers. But the world has moved on. The approach worldwide is more professional and the part-time sportsman will get left behind.

There are those aware of the problem and determined to solve it. None more so than Scott Naden, appointed as competitors' employment officer by the British Olympic Association. He is effectively a "career coach". His job includes having to deal with life after sport for those competitors who are so focused that nothing in the world matters beyond their final race.

He is quick to point out that any kind of work for athletes these days presents a paradox. "A great proportion of Britain's Olympic athletes have to have a day-job to get by," he said, "and while this may one day help them in their eventual careers, it actually can work against their sporting performance. The set-up in full-time professional sport is different but, of course, those sports clearly have a responsibility to prepare their players for the day when they will have to retire."



Both the Professional Footballers' Association and the Cricketers' Association are aware of the problems and now have schemes to qualify players in fields such as physiotherapy, and the YTS scheme has worked wonders in broadening the education of would-be apprentice footballers. But still too many are reaching the end of their careers with no real prospects.

Of course, there are those at the top who make more than enough during their playing days to set them up for life. But, for every Faldo, Christie or Shearer, there are thousands who try for fortune and fail. Naden is concerned for "the many hundreds who make huge sacrifices for their sport, who put their careers on hold and who then don't quite make it to the top".

And he points out: "Only a handful can go on to jobs in coaching and management, and the lure of television and journalism can be very tempting, but very short-term." The solution for the future may well lie in the example of the past.

In the days before sport became a full-time branch of the entertainment industry, the universities and colleges of this land were a breeding ground of great sportsmen and women. Students then were a privileged minority. But today, almost a third of young people go into higher education and it is reckoned that, by 2000, one half of all Britain's Olympic team will be students.

'Too many end careers with no real prospects'

Naden believes that the much-talked-of British Sporting Academy, with its prime-ministerial backing and its lottery funding, could provide a focus for dealing nationwide with the problems that sportsmen face when they retire.

He has a vision of a network of schools, colleges and career coaches pointing to a future for sportsmen and women in jobs that make the most of their capacity for hard, disciplined work and their legacy of fitness and health.

It can work. Last Saturday, in a low-key cross-country race on Wimbledon Common, there were a couple of competitors whose presence demonstrated that a lifelong love of sport and success in a demanding career need not be mutually exclusive. They fined up for the five-mile race.

They finished. And they loved it. Their ages are 68 and 65. And for anyone who thinks that success in sport and tough careers don't mix, their names are Chris Brasher and Sir Christopher Chataway.

JOHN BRYANT

SAILING

Protests follow launch of Melges

FROM EDWARD GORMAN
SAILING CORRESPONDENT
IN BARCELONA

THE Glenfiddich Melges 24 European Gold Cup got off to a somewhat chaotic start here yesterday when about a third of the 47-strong fleet appeared to be over the start line illegally, but were then not disqualified from the first race.

The race was delayed for an hour and a half because of lack of wind and there were two general recalls in a light sea breeze, before officials hoisted the black flag. Under black-flag rules, any yacht over the line within five minutes of the start should be automatically disqualified.

However, more than 15 boats were caught out by the five-minute gun but were then not thrown out by race officials, to the amazement of the skippers watching the drama from the legal side of the line, who had assumed the offending sail numbers had been taken down.

Matt Humphries, the former skipper of *Dolphin and Youth* in the 1993-94 Whitbread Round the World Race and winner of the 1996 Spi Ouest regatta in the Melges, attempted to have the race scrapped after launching a protest backed up by accounts from eight other witnesses.

"We were sitting at the port end of the line," he said. "We could see a third of the fleet in the racing triangle and we thought the committee boat was taking care of it. The race has to be scrapped — it's a black-and-white rule."

The race was eventually won by the American, David Chapin, on *Odessey*, from Luis Martinez Doreste, of Spain, on *Garvalin III*, with Keith Musto third. He was easily the best placed of the 21-strong British contingent.

Among those who endured an opening to the championship they would rather forget was Mike Lennon, twice British champion in the Melges and winner at Cowes Week this year. He is one of the favourites to take the European title. Lennon got a poor start and then fell out of the stronger wind bands on the beat and found himself going round the first mark in a most unaccustomed 39th place. At the finish he was 21st. "Nearly all the racing we've done this year has been in medium to strong winds and we seem to be a little off the pace in the light," he said.

The championship has got off to a difficult start, with racing cancelled on Tuesday due to lack of wind and only one race completed yesterday. Last year, the European Cup attracted only 23 boats, but the Melges fleet in Europe is growing steadily despite the relatively high cost of the boats. Nine countries are represented this time, with two boats from the United States.

Among the top performers in the field are the defending European title-holder, Giorgio Zuccoli, from Italy, who was sixth yesterday, the Finn, Kenneth Thelen, who finished one place ahead of him, and the Britons, John Merricks and Ian Walker.

The BT Global Challenge yachts that have opted for the longer route to Rio de Janeiro, hugging the African coast to make the most of the sea breezes, saw their tactical reasoning underlined as *Ocean Rover* moved up to third after covering 239 nautical miles in 24 hours — a record for the race so far.

CYCLING

Boardman awaits trial judgment on accelerating status

BY ANDREW LONGMORE

AFTER Chris Boardman had beaten Bjarne Riis, the winner of the Tour de France, by nearly five minutes in the Grand Prix des Nations time-trial at Lac du Madine last month, the Dane's team manager, Walter Godefroot, claimed that his man was the real winner. "I do not count Boardman," he said. "He is unreal."

Even in a sport of commonplace heroism, Boardman's dominance over the past six weeks has merged truth with fantasy. In football parlance, his record since the Olympics reads: played 7, won 7, world titles 1, world records 3. His last defeat was by Miguel Indurain in the steamy suburbs of Atlanta, where the heat took its toll during the final stages of the time-trial. He finished behind the Spanish pair of Indurain and Abraham Olano to win bronze but vowed then to end a disappointing year, in which he completed his first full Tour de France in 39th place, with a flourish. No one could have anticipated how seriously he meant to keep his word.

Today, in Lugano, the flying Englishman could add to his score of victories and world titles by winning the world time-trial championship. Tony Rominger, who showed some signs of a return to past form on the time-trial stages of the recent Tour of Spain, and Alex Zülle, winner of that tour, will have the advantage of home support but Boardman's supremacy over a range of distances, from the 4,000 metres pursuit in Manchester, where he broke two world records in taking the title, and the hour record, which he extended to a remarkable 56.375km — more than a kilometre further than Rominger's previous record — just eight days later, makes him the overwhelming favourite to cap an unprecedented run. The two Swiss riders, though, loomed large in Boardman's thoughts on the eve of the race.

"Rominger and Zülle will be motivated because the championships are in their country," Boardman said. "If I was Rominger, I would be after my scalp for taking his hour record."

For all his present dominance, Boardman would happily have swapped his autumn form for better health in high summer. He was hindered by a virus in the early stages of the Tour de France and a bad first day in the Alps cost him any chance of a top-ten place overall, a failure that hit him hard. Though enjoying the best form of his life now and, as ever, basking in the glory of winning back on his old stamping grounds of pursuits and time-trials, Boardman knows that rivals such as Indurain have left their best on the long, hard roads of summer. Indurain, injured and heading for retirement, will not be in Switzerland to defend his time-trial title.

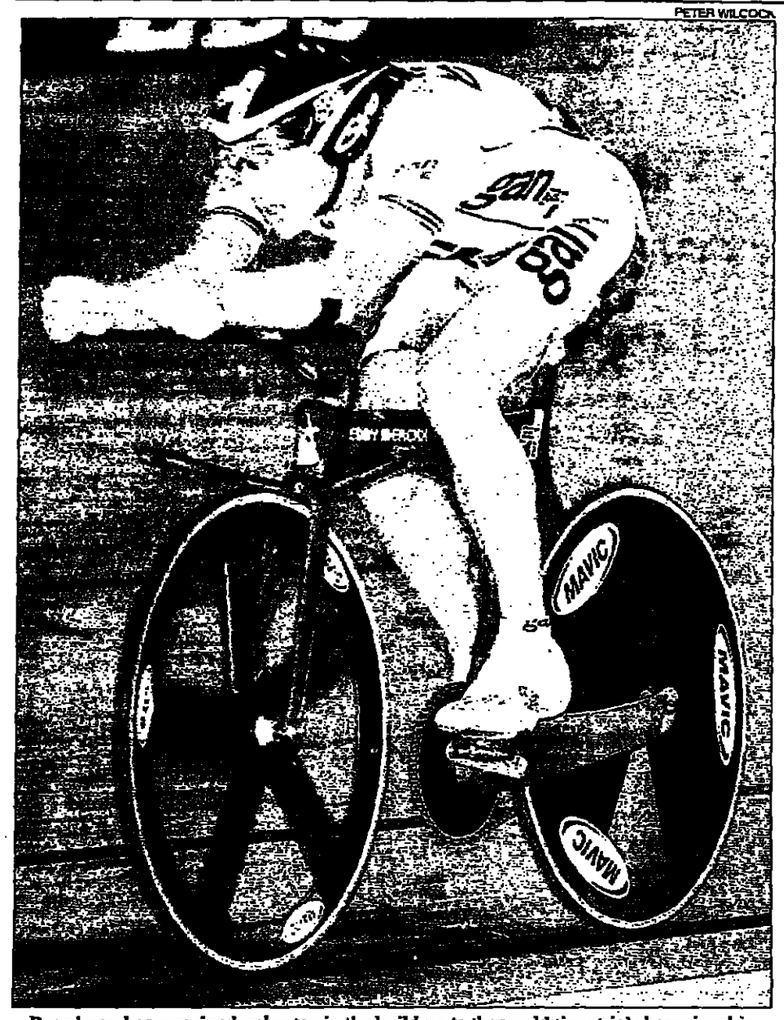
"Some of the top riders will not be as motivated because they think their season is finished," he said. "I'm disappointed that Indurain is not here. It would have been good to have had one last crack at him if he is to retire. I don't believe Olano will be in shape for this. Yet world championships are about finding the best riders and July or August is the best time for that, not October."

The news yesterday that the "Superman" riding position, first patented by the former world pursuit champion, Graeme Obree, could be banned from international competition will come as no surprise to Boardman, who used it to break the world hour record last month. The change in the ruling could make Boardman's record impregnable for several years, provided it is allowed to stand by the international cycling authorities.

More significant for Boardman's ambitions in the Tour de France, his team, Gan, have added the tough Australian, Scott Sunderland, and the experienced Italian, Eros Poli, to their squad for the coming season. By the end of today, Boardman could well have added another world title to his lengthening list. But, as he knows well, the true judgment day will come once again next summer in the Tour.

TRACK

Aug 29, Manchester: Boardman wins world 4,000 metres pursuit championship in world record of 4min 11.1sec, shattering own record set in first round by six seconds
Sep 1, Brussels: Wins Eddy Merckx time-trial.
Sep 8, Manchester: Breaks world hour record with distance of 56.375km. First man to break 56km.
Sep 8, Liestral: Wins Joseph Voegli Memorial time-trial
Sep 15, Karlsruhe: Wins Telekom GP time-trial with partner, Uwe Peschel.
Sep 21, Lac du Madine: Wins 70km Grand Prix des Nations time-trial, beating Bjarne Riis by nearly five minutes
Sep 28, Saint Lô: Wins Duo Normand with partner, Paul Manning


PETER WILCOCK

Boardman has remained unbeaten in the build-up to the world time-trial championship

Longo puts record straight in time-trial

BY PETER BRYAN

JEANNIE LONGO, who won her first world championship in 1985, yesterday won her eleventh when she retained her time-trial title at Lugano with a performance that belied her 37 years. The victory was especially sweet after her unexpected defeat in the Olympic Games time-trial, when she finished 20 seconds behind Zulfia Zabirova, of Russia, and had to settle for the silver medal. Yesterday, the Russian was fourth, 1min 15.37sec adrift of Longo's winning time of 35min 16.07sec for the testing 26.4-kilometre course.

Longo, the last of 36 riders to start, stamped her authority on the trial from the first checkpoint at 6.5 kilometres and was never headed, drawing clear all the time from her closest challenger and France team colleague, Catherine Marsal, who eventually finished second. Alessandra Cappellotto, of Italy, made a strong challenge in the second half, improving from eighth position to take the bronze medal.

Yvonne McGregor and Jenny Derham, of Britain, both found the course too technical, with its tight corners, testing climbs and fast descents, finishing sixteenth and 31st respectively.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

EUROPEAN CUP: Group H: Podgorica (Yug) 103 (Sceparovic 33, S Ivanovic 18) London 96 (Brown 23, Lewis 22)

CYCLING

LUGANO, Switzerland: World road-race championships: Men: Under-23 individual time-trial (31.6km): 1, L Sironi (It) 37min 51.99sec; 2, P Sgambelluri (It) 38.44.38; 3, A Mooden (Ger) 38.49.39; 4, N O'Neill (Aus) 39.32.58; 5, M Gorio (Aus) 39.59.86; 6, B Nechepourenko (Russ) 40.09.84; 10, P Manning (GB) 40.31.42. Women: Individual time-trial (26.4km): 1, J Longo-Ciprelli (Fr) 35.06.07; 2, C Marsal (Fr) 36.06.00; 3, A Cappellotto (It) 36.10.47; 4, Z Zabirova (Russ) 36.31.44; 5, C Hughes (Can) 36.41.81; 6, M Clignet (Fr) 36.45.24; 16, Y McGregor (GB) 38.01.09

HOCKEY

CAGLIARI: Men's World Cup: Preliminary round: Pool B: Iceland 3 Italy 1, Scotland 2 Kenya 0. Final positions: 1, Ireland 18pts; 2, Poland 13; 3, Italy 10; 4, Kenya 6; 5, Scotland 5; 6, United States 4; 7, Bangladesh 4

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Hartford 7 Pittsburgh 3, Florida 1 New York Rangers 1 (OT), Toronto 2 Edmonton 4, Dallas 5 Washington 3, Colorado 6 San Jose 0
EUROPEAN LEAGUE: Lulea (Swe) 10 Manchester 6

RUGBY UNION

ANGLO-WELSH CUP: Pool 1A: Leicester 60 Bridgend 22
CLUB MATCH: Newport 33 Barbarians 86
REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: England Fire Service 63 RAF Strike Command 29 (at Reading)
SCHOOLS MATCH: King's, Canterbury 50 Kent College 3, Rishworth 69 Scarborough College 5.

GOLF

SONY WORLD RANKINGS: 1, G Norman (Aus) 10.30pts, 2, C Montgomerie (Scot) 8.97; 3, N Faldo (Eng) 8.79; 4, E Els (SA) 8.78; 5, F Couples (US) 8.33; 6, T Lehman (US) 8.28; 7, C Pavin (US) 8.16; 8, M Ozaki (Japan) 8.09; 9, P Mickelson (US) 7.70; 10, D Love (US) 7.32; 11, M O'Meara (US) 6.94; 12, S Elkington (Aus) 6.34; 13, N Price (Zim) 6.30; 14, B Langer (Ger) 5.80; 15, S Stricker (US) 5.55; 16, L Roberts (US) 5.48; 17, D Duval (US) 5.25; 18, M McCumber (US) 5.21; 19, S Hoch (US) 5.10; 20, V Singh (Fiji) 5.06

SQUASH

DOHA: Men's tournament: Quarter-finals: Jansher Khan (Pak) bt S Parke (Eng) 12-15, 15-9, 15-8, 15-12; J Boneta (Fr) bt M Chaloner (Eng) 15-13, 15-10, 15-4; C Walker (Eng) bt B Martin (Aus) 15-11, 15-13, 13-15, 15-11; R Eyles (Aus) bt D Harris (Eng) 15-14, 15-9, 13-15, 8-15, 15-13. Semi-final: Jansher bt Boneta 15-8, 15-11, 15-8; Eyles bt Walker 17-16, 15-10, 11-15, 15-10.
PETALING JAYA, Malaysia: Women's world Open: Second round: M Martin (Aus) bt S Baum (Ger) 9-1, 9-3, 9-4; T Shanton (Eng) bt R Macrae (Eng) 9-4, 9-7, 8-10, 6-9, 9-6; C Jackman (Eng) bt T Weeks (Aus) 9-0, 9-5, 3-9, 9-5; C Nitch (SA) bt S Shabana (Egypt) 9-3, 9-5, 3-9, 9-3; F Geaves (Eng) bt D Holleran (US) 4-9, 9-3, 9-4, 9-4; S Wright (Eng) bt J Wilson (NZ) 2-9, 9-5, 9-1, 9-0; R Cooper (Aus) bt E Pierce (US) 9-1, 9-0, 9-0; C Owens (Aus) bt S Benzel (Ger) 9-3, 9-3, 9-5; P Beams (NZ) bt N Tippett (Aus) 9-2, 9-3, 9-0; S Fitzgerald (Aus) bt C Venter (SA) 9-1, 9-1, 9-0; L Irving (Aus) bt Natarsha Tippet (Aus) 9-5, 9-2, 9-3; M Bell (Aus) bt V Cardwell (Aus) 4-9, 9-0, 9-0, 9-1, 9-2; S Schono (Ger) bt S Cook (NZ) 7-9, 9-5, 9-3, 9-3; L Marsh (NZ) bt V Atkinson (Holl) 9-1, 9-7, 9-2; S Horner (Eng) bt R Grinham (Aus) 4-9, 9-6, 9-2, 9-1; L Charman (Eng) bt D Drady-Harte (Aus) 5-9, 9-0, 9-1, 9-0.

SNOOKER

MARSASKALA, Malta: Rothmans Grand Prix: First round: J Grech (Malta) bt W Thorne (Eng) 5-3; A Robidoux (Can) bt S Camilleri (Malta) 5-3

SPEEDWAY

PREMIER LEAGUE: Cradley Heath and Stoke 60 Poole 36

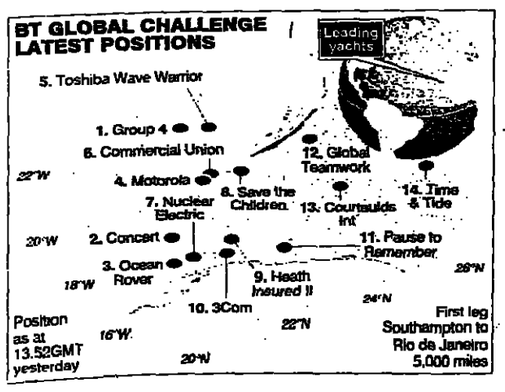
TENNIS

SHEFFIELD: LTA Autumn satellite tournament (GB unless stated). Men: Quarter-finals: R Koenig (SA) bt N Weal 3-6, 6-4, 6-3; C Beecher bt F Roval (Swe) 6-3, 6-4; C Wilkinson bt A Parmar 6-4, 6-2; O Fukarek (Cz) bt P Robinson 7-5, 6-2.
VIENNA: Men's tournament: First round: T Enqvist (Swe) bt A Berasategui (Sp) 6-0, 6-4; A Medvedev (Ukr) bt A Gaudenzi (It) 6-3, 6-4, S Edberg (Swe) bt J Krodelak (Slovakia) 6-4, 6-2; M Stich (Ger) bt H Gumy (Arg) 6-2, 6-2; G Ivanisevic (Cro) bt F Dewulf (Bel) 4-6, 7-5, 6-2; O Camporese (It) bt M Gustafsson (Swe) 6-2, 6-4; A Boetsch (Fr) bt M Rios (Chile) 6-2, 6-4; Y Kafelnikov (Russ) bt D Prinosi (Ger) 7-6, 6-2.
FILDERSTADT: Women's tournament: First round: J Wiesner (Austria) bt N Tauziat (Fr) 7-5, 7-5; D van Roost (Bel) bt M Werdel-Witmeyer (US) 7-5, 6-4; J Novotna (Cz) bt S Smith (GB) 6-1, 6-2; A Carlsson (Swe) bt G Sabatini (Arg) 7-5, 6-4; N Medvedeva (Ukr) bt M Maleeva (Bul) 3-6, 7-5, 7-5; A Coetzer (SA) bt H Sukova (Cz) 6-1, 6-3; J Capriati (US) bt N Zvereva (Belo) 7-6, 6-3; A Huber (Ger) bt E Wagner (Ger) 6-2, 6-1. Second round: A Sánchez Vicario (Sp) bt J Capriati (US) 6-4, 6-4.
SURABAYA, Indonesia: Women's tournament: First round: N Miyagi (Japan) bt N Van Lottum (Fr) 3-6, 6-1, 6-1; H Inoue (Japan) bt Mira Jeon (S Kor) 6-3, 6-4; Sung Hee Park (S Kor) bt W Prakyusa (India) 6-3, 4-6, 6-1. Second round: L Richterova (Cz) bt A Serra-Zanetti (It) 7-6, 6-4; A Gorsi (Cz) bt S Techet (Fr) 6-4, 6-4; H Inoue (Japan) bt Tzu Ting Weng (S Kor) 6-0, 6-1; Y Yoshida (Japan) bt R Hiraki (Japan) 6-3, 4-3 ret

PEKING: Men's tournament: First round: P Kuhnen (Ger) bt N Godwin (SA) 5-7, 6-3, 6-3. Second round: B Black (Zim) bt D Van Scheppingen (Holl) 6-1, 6-3; T Johansson (Swe) bt O Ogorodov (Uzb) 6-4, 6-3; S Schalken (Holl) bt P Puhl, Kuhnen (Ger) 6-4, 7-6; G Kuerten (Br) bt V Spadea (US) 1-6, 7-6, 6-4

POOLS DIVIDENDS

LITTLEWOODS: Treble chance: 21pts £28,985 65, 20 £113.50, 19 £8.40, 18 £1.80. Four draws £18.50, 10 homes £1,256.30. Five aways £264.65.
VERNONS: Treble chance: 21pts £10,058.00, 20 £49.25, 19 £7.50. Super Shots £100.00. Premier 10 £515.00.
ZETTERS: Treble chance: 21pts £1,825.65, 20 £6.80, 19 £0.70. Four aways £91.00. Eight homes £87.40. Four draws £20.00. Super 7 £39.20. Lucky numbers 21, 2, 7, 1, 28, 33.



SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

I and/or my partner made an expensive mistake on this hand. See what you make of the auction before reading my comments.

Dealer South — **Love all** — **Rubber Bridge**

	♠AJ42 ♥A10 ♦K10 ♣AKQJ5	
♠K109 ♥J76532 ♦J8 ♣109	N W E S	♠Q87653 ♥— ♦43 ♣87632
	♠— ♥KQ984 ♦AQ97652 ♣4	

Contract: Seven Diamonds redoubled, by South. Lead: seven of hearts

S	W	N	E
1 D	Pass	3 C	Pass
3 H	Pass	3 S (1)	Pass
4 D	Pass	5 NT (2)	Pass
7 D	Pass	Pass (3)	Double (4)
Redouble (5)	Pass	Pass (6)	Pass

I was South. Some points about the bidding.

(1) Three Spades in this auction is just a mark-time bid.

(2) Now that South has rebid his diamonds, showing at least a six-card suit, North correctly bids 5 NT, the grand slam force. This asks South to bid Seven Diamonds if he has two of the top three honours.

(3) North should remove Seven Diamonds into 7 NT. If the diamonds run for six tricks he is almost bound to make thirteen tricks. And it might be possible to make 7 NT even if the diamonds break badly.

(4) Asking for an unusual lead, and usually showing a void.

(5) This is not just being macho. By redoubling South risks an extra 100 to gain 330 if East fails to find the correct lead. If East makes the wrong lead more than about 25 per cent of the time, the redouble gains.

(6) North said he would have removed into 7 NT if I had not redoubled. In my view the redouble shows that South is bristling with playing tricks, and that makes the case even stronger for switching to 7 NT. A sad result: -200 in Seven Diamonds redoubled instead of +1,520 in 7 NT.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Sadler's gold

The one unqualified success story for England in the Erevan Olympiad was the performance of Matthew Sadler, last year's British champion, who earned the individual gold medal for the best performance on board four. One of the best ways to improve one's chess is to pick a role model and follow that player's games.

Sadler's games are particularly worthy of study. A factor that stands out in his style is a determination not to be intimidated, even by the best opposition, as well as a fierce resolve to extract the maximum from every situation.

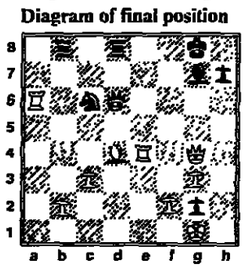
After his Erevan performance, Sadler's rating is now moving steadily towards the super-grandmaster level of 2,700 on the international scale and he may well be a future contender for the world title.

White: Sadler (England)
Black: Nedvednichy (Latvia)
Erevan Olympiad, Armenia September 1996

Pirc Defence

1	d4	d6
2	e4	Nf6
3	Nc3	g6
4	g3	Bg7
5	Bg2	0-0
6	Nge2	e5
7	h3	Nc6
8	Be3	exd4
9	Nxd4	Bd7
10	0-0	Re8
11	Nde2	b5
12	a3	a5
13	Nd4	b4
14	e5	Nxe5
15	axb4	c6
16	b5	cxb5
17	Ndxb5	d5
18	Bd4	Rb8
19	Re1	Ne4
20	Nxe4	dxe4
21	Nd6	Bg4
22	hxg4	Qxd6
23	Rxe4	f5
24	gxf5	gxf5
25	Re2	Red8
26	c3	f4
27	Rxa5	f3
28	Re4	Nc6
29	Ra6	b-g2
30	Qg4	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



Fide positions

David Jarrett, the British Chess Federation delegate to Fide (the world chess federation), was elected treasurer at the recent congress in Erevan. BCF chairman Stewart Ruben became a member of the world championship committee.

Times book

The Times Winning Moves 2, containing 240 chess puzzles from international grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in *The Times*, is available from bookshops or from B. T. Batsford (tel: 01376 321276 at £6.99 plus postage and packing).

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

BIBLE BODS
BAANAH
a. A river of Damascus
b. A murderer
c. Owner of an ass

MALCHUS
a. A minor prophet
b. An ally of Abraham
c. An earless fellow

GALLIO
a. A careless Stoic
b. A learned Pharisee
c. A Roman convert

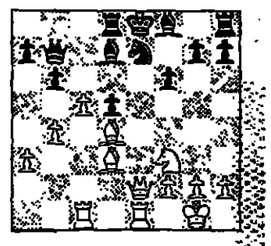
RHODA
a. A daughter of Herod
b. An excitable girl
c. Girl-friend of Timothy

Answers on page 46

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Donev — Ernst, Geneva 1996. Black has done everything wrong in this game. White has a huge lead in development, two very strong bishops and pressure on the e-file. Unsurprisingly, White now won swiftly. How?



Solution on page 46

GOLF: LURE OF ST ANDREWS ENSURES FORMIDABLE OVERSEAS CHALLENGE FOR DUNHILL CUP

Scotland hoping for glorious twelfth

BY JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

THE twelfth Dunhill Cup starts at St Andrews this morning and hopes are high that, as Scotland bid to make an honourable defence of their title, their chances of doing so will not be overshadowed by more of the extreme weather that has hit this tournament in the past. On occasions in days gone by, the wind has cut to the quick and thermal underwear, ski hats and gloves have been the order of the day. The Old Course is not the coldest golf course on earth but there have been days at this event when it has felt like it.

In the Kingdom of Fife yesterday, the sun shone benevolently, though a wind roared around forcibly enough to make its presence felt. Golfers from the 16 participating countries were able to prepare for this event in the knowledge that the autumn equinox, the moment when day and night are of equal length all over the world, had passed without an undue temperature change.

It is not only players like Andrew Coltart, of Scotland, Nick Price, the 1994 Open champion, and Colin Montgomerie, captaining the Scotland team, who admit to getting a buzz from playing on the Old Course. It is a curmudgeon indeed who travels the road eastwards from Leuchars and whose spirits are not raised at the first sight of a spire or a bell tower or a battlement in the place the Scots refer to as the "auld grey toon".

When the Open was here last year, large stands were dotted all over the course and it seemed as though every shop had managed to come up with some angle that made its wares applicable to golf and golfers. The narrow streets were thronged. There was a real sense of a town being *en fête*. Now the cheering throngs have left, the streets are quieter but the place still retains the feel of a town given over to golf. This, of course, is the extra appeal that accrues to any event held here. Another attraction almost as great as the Old Course itself is the 17th, the Road Hole, perhaps the most famous hole on the most famous golf course in the world. It exerts its influence at all times, the difficulty of its 461 yards not being noticeably diminished on a calm day from the threat it poses when a wind is blowing. "It's a par four and threequarters," Price said. "A five is not bad and a four is very good."



Price: relishes playing the Old Course

"In the 1978 Open, the Road Hole bunker was probably he hardest in the world," Price continued. "It was higher than it is now, the roll off was steeper and there was a bigger catchment area. I would say that on a scale of one to ten, it was a ten then and now is down to an eight."

The hole has changed a little for this week's event. "At the Open the rough on the left was much thicker than it is now," Ernie Els, captain of the South Africa team, said. This makes it easier to play the hole down the left from the tee and to the left of the bunker with the second shot. That was the way *Phil Mickelson played it in the* Open last year and now, making his first appearance as a member of the United States team, he is determined to play it the same way this year.

Mickelson, Mark O'Meara and Steve Stricker, who are ranked first, fourth and fifth respectively in the United States money-list, are a formidable team and the top seeds. Greg Norman, Steve Elkington and Wayne Riley, of Australia, are the No 2 seeds. The England team, made up of Barry Lane, Jonathan Lomas and Lee Westwood, is not seeded for the first time.

It was Mickelson who put the appeal of golf at St Andrews into perspective. "It is not just the golf course," Mickelson said. "The town of St Andrews adds to the lure of the golf here. The place has the Road Hole, all those golf shops. It is not something that *could be duplicated. It is a* very special, unique place."

DUNHILL DRAW

Group one
UNITED STATES v ITALY: 12.30: M O'Meara v C Rocca. 12.40: P Mickelson v E Canonica. 12.50: S Stricker v S Grappasonni
SPAIN v ENGLAND: 1.00: I Garrido v W Westwood. 1.10: M A Jiménez v J Lomas. 1.20: D Borrego v B Lane.

Group two
ZIMBABWE v INDIA: 9.30: A Johnstone v A Sher. 9.40: M McNulty v G Ghai. 8.50: N Price v J Singh
SCOTLAND v SWEDEN: 10.00: A Coltart v P Hedblom. 10.10: R Russell v P Sjoland. 10.20: C Montgomerie v J Sandelin.

Group three
SOUTH AFRICA v CANADA: 10.30: V Westner v R Todd. 10.40: E Els v R Gibson. 10.50: R Goosen v J Rutledge.
IRELAND v WALES: 11.00: D Clarke v M Mouland. 11.10: P McGinley v P Affleck. 11.20: P Harrington v P Price

Group four
NEW ZEALAND v GERMANY: 11.30: G Waite v H P Thül. 11.40: G Turner v T Gogele. 11.50: F Nobilo v S Ströver.
AUSTRALIA v JAPAN: 12.00: W Riley v N Ozaki. 12.10: S Elkington v K Takami. 12.20: G Norman v H Mashiat

CRISPIN RODWELL



Billy Alexander, of Wormald Ansul, considers his limited options on the 18th yesterday

Civil servants hope to improve account in final reckoning

BY MEL WEBB

FACELESS bureaucrats? Anonymous drones? Not the four civil servants who waltzed into Rockmount Golf Club in Belfast yesterday and calmly put their organisation into the national final of *The Times* MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge for the second time in four years.

The Northern Ireland Civil Service Sports Association reached the final in the inaugural year of the Challenge in 1993, and they signally failed to cover themselves with glory. To be precise, they finished last. This time there is a grim determination to do much better.

The team in that first year was composed of four good players who, when the big occasion called, did not do justice to their ability. None of *the quartet who will be playing* in La Manga this year appeared in that team, but they will be picking the brains of their predecessors in the six weeks leading up to the national final. On occasions like this, a bit of advanced planning never goes amiss.

The winning team in this Ireland final — Eamonn McCarron, Gerry Boden, Roy McGrath and Jim Johnston — were reliability itself. Their plan was to aim for 4½ Stableford points a hole — 81 for the 18 holes. They achieved their target, and more, with 87, to win by two points from ICL, *who, in an intriguing sub-plot,* beat their computing rivals Digital and Unisys into third and fourth places, with 83 and 82.

The civil servants started on the 10th and the highlights of their round came on their fourth and sixth holes, the par-four 13th and par-five 15th, where they scored seven points each time.

On the 13th, McCarron hit a four-iron and eight-iron to four feet and made the uphill putt for a net eagle two, worth four points, and Johnston hit four-iron, five-iron and got up and down from a bunker pin-high on the left for a net birdie and three points.

McCarron also featured on the second seven-pointer, striking his five-iron third shot to 25 feet, from where he holed *his birdie* putt for another net eagle. Boden hit two drivers ten yards short of the green, chipped and two-putted from ten feet for a net birdie.

McGrath did not figure in *either of those holes* — he saved his best golf for his inward half and played much better than any ten-handicapper has any right to expect. A member of the Dunmurry Club, he covered the nine holes in a gross one over par, putting some startling figures down to a newly-acquired driver that is giving him greater accuracy and more length off the tee.

"*It was exceptional scoring* for me," he said. "I had only played at Rockmount once before, and that was last year, so it wasn't that I was all that familiar with the course."

The two seven-point holes apart, the team relied on steadiness rather than fireworks, and, having completed a solid day's work, then had to wait for the better part of 90 minutes to see if the 16 teams still on the course could overtake them. "You dared not hope," Johnston said, "but, somehow, you just could not stop your mind drifting back to what might have been. It *wasn't a pleasant experience.*"

Apart from their heroics, a small piece of Challenge history was made with the first hole in one in a regional final. The hero in question was *Gordon Patterson, of HPSS,* who aced the 170-yard 16th with a six-iron. He was duly grateful for the fact that he was not held to the traditional duty of a holer-in-one — buying drinks for all present. It was a relieved Patterson who went home clutching his piece of Waterford Crystal with bank balance undented.

SCORES

87: Northern Ireland Civil Service Sports Association. 85: ICL (North). 83: Digital Co Ltd. 82: Unisys Ltd. 81: Department of Economic Development; CMI Ltd. 80: Brookvale Kitchens; R J Maxwell & Son Ltd. 79: First National Building Society. 77: Robert Keys Group. 76: Fleet Financial (NI) Ltd. 75: Alex Stewart Partnership. 74: MacNaughton Blair & Co Ltd; Northern Ireland Electric plc; Sherwood Systems Ltd. 73: O'Mahony Farrelly; DFDS Transport Ltd. 72: Satchwell Grant; Imperial Tobacco. 71: HPSS; Sunblest Bakeries. 70: Short Bros plc. 67: Wormald Ansul Ltd. 65: Ireland Freight Services.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 45

BAANAH
(b) A servant of king Ish-bosheth whom he murdered in expectation of reward from David, who ordered instead that he be executed along with his fellow ruffian Rechab.

MALCHUS
(c) A servant of the high priest, who was present when Jesus was arrested in the garden of Gethsemane and whose right ear was cut off in the accompanying scuffle. Jesus commanded the assailant, whom John named as Peter, to desist and according to Luke healed the ear.

GALLIO
(a) Lucius Junius Gallio, Roman proconsul of Achaia AD 51-2 and friend of Ovid. He was the brother of the Stoic philosopher and playwright Seneca, and uncle of Seneca. They were from Spain. He was an educated mandarin posted to a city which should have appealed to him but whose citizens did not. He *refused to be drawn into the disputes between Paul and his* Jewish adversaries in Corinth, for "he cared for none of these things".

RHODA
(b) An excitable girl in the house of Mary, mother of John Mark, where a number of Christians were gathered to pray for Peter, apprehended by Herod Agrippa I. When Peter, having escaped from prison, knocked on the garden door she recognised his voice but was so bowled over that she ran back into the house with the news instead of letting Peter in.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE
1 c6! Bxc6 2 Rxc6 Qxc6 3 Bb5 and the black queen goes.

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GRRREAT EXPECTATIONS

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CRICKET

West Indies pair cleared for counties

COURTNEY WALSH and Carl Hooper will be allowed to continue playing for their English counties — Gloucestershire and Kent respectively — even though they are among 20 players to be offered contracts by the West Indies Cricket Board, aimed at keeping them in the Caribbean (Pat Gibson writes).

Walsh, who is captain of both Gloucestershire and the West Indies, has already assured his county that he will not be prevented from signing a new two-year contract with them, while Hooper, who still has one year left on his existing four-year agreement, has intimated that he is ready to sign a one-year extension.

The board, while stressing its intention to improve its domestic game, is, however, prepared to make allowances in the cases of Walsh and Hooper, who are the only regular West Indies Test players with county sides.

Steve Camacho, the board's chief executive, said: "We have to respect people who already have county contracts and, in the first instance, it certainly will not disadvantage them from playing for the West Indies."

RADIO CHOICE

Back in the driving seat

The Controllers' Concerts. *Radio 3, 7.30pm.*

We'll never know whether more brickbats than bouquets have been tossed at the men who have masterminded the musical output of the old Third Programme and its successor Radio 3. It's a matter of record, not speculation, that their tastes have influenced ours, even though Classic FM has now spectacularly entered the equation, and *its influence* continues to grow. Three past BBC music controllers and the present incumbent, Nicholas Kenyon, have all been invited to devise a concert on successive Thursdays, beginning tonight with Sir William Glock's selection. He chooses works by Mozart and three composers with whom he was closely associated when he was in charge between 1959 and 1973 — Pierre Boulez, Roberto Gerhard and Elliott Carter.

God in a White Coat. *Radio 4, 7.20pm.*

The title given to Geoff Watts's inquiry into spiritual healing needs a question mark. By its very nature, there must be as much faith as fact in any conclusions about the efficacy of this kind of complementary therapy. However, the need for a question mark is disputed by the ever-increasing number of healers. They attribute the success of their methods to what they call divine love energy. The "official" medical profession has taken a long time even to contemplate the possibility that spiritual healing can work. Now some family doctors are adding it to the services available at their surgeries.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

FM Stereo 6.30am Chris Evans 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiley 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier 7.00 Evening Session 9.00 Collins and Maconie's Hit Parade 10.00 Mark Radcliffe 12.00 Claire Sturgess 4.00 Clive Warren

RADIO 2

FM Stereo 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Anne Robinson 1.30pm Debbie Thrower 3.00 Alex Lester 5.05 John *Dunn* 7.00 The News Huddlines 7.30 David Allan. The best in country music 9.00 Paul Jones 9.45 Gospel Train, with Carol Pemberton 10.30 Allan Stewart 12.05am Adrian Finighan 3.00 Steve Madden, incl at 3.30 Pause for Thought

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports, incl 5.45 Wake Up to Money 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, incl 6.55 and 7.55 Racing *Preview* 8.35 The Magazine, with Brian Hayes, incl 10.35 News from Europe 12.00 Midday with Mair, incl 12.35pm Moneycheck 2.05 Ruscoe on Five, incl 3.45 Entertainment News 4.00 Nationwide, incl at 5.45 Entertainment News 7.00 News Extra, incl at 7.20 Sports Bulletin 7.35 On the Line 8.05 Inside Edge A look inside the week's sporting headlines with Rob Bonnet 9.05 SportsAmerica, with Alton Byrd 9.35 America Grafitti 10.05 News Talk, with Paul Reynolds 11.00 Night Extra, with Valerie Sanderson 12.05am After Hours — Early Call 2.05 Up All Night

TALK RADIO

5.00am Early Breakfast 7.00 Paul Ross 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Anna Raeburn 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Drivetime, with Peter Deeley 7.00 Moz Dee's Sportszone 10.00 James Whale 1.00am Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. News on the hour 5.30 Europe Today 6.30 Europe Today 7.05 The World Today 7.30 Sports International 8.10 Words of Faith 8.15 Off the Shelf: *Heatwave* 8.30 Network UK 9.15 Composer of the Month 9.46 Health Matters 10.05 Business 10.15 Sports International 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.30 BBC English 11.45 Off the Shelf: *Heatwave* 12.30pm Meridian 1.15 Britain Today 1.30 Islam, Faith and Power 3.05 Outlook 3.30 Multitrack. X Press 4.05 Sports Roundup 4.15 BBC English 4.30 News in German 5.30 Business 5.45 Britain Today 6.10 World Today 6.25 Take Five 6.30 News in German 6.45 Sport 7.30 Islam, Faith and Power 9.01 Outlook 9.25 Words of Faith 9.30 John Peel 10.05 Business 10.15 Britain Today 10.30 Meridian (Books) 11.30 World Today 11.45 Sport 12.10am Take Five 12.15 Soundbyte 12.30 Bhangra Beat 1.30 Good Books 1.45 Britain Today 2.30 Outlook 2.55 Words of Faith 3.30 Thirty-Minute Drama: *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* 4.15 Sport 4.30 Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths 6.00 Mike Read 9.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Susannah Simons 2.00pm Lunchtime Concerto Delius (Piano Concerto) 3.00 Nick Bailey 6.00 Classic Newsnight 6.30 Sonata. Loeillet (Sonata in E minor) 7.00 Travel Guide. Sarawak 8.00 Evening Concert Featuring the winning recordings from the 1996 Gramophone Awards which will be announced today 10.00 Michael Mappin 1.00am Sally Peterson

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono's Breakfast Experience 9.00 Richard Skinner 12.00 Graham Dene 4.00pm Nicky Horne 7.00 Paul Coyte (FM) / Robin Banks (AM) 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00am Jeremy Clark

RADIO 3

6.00am **On Air,** with Andrew McGregor. Includes Beethoven (Piano Sonata in F minor, Op 57, Appassionata); Szymanowski (Violin Concerto No 1); Kreutzer (Die Nacht ist Schön); Vivaldi (Recorder Concerto in F, Op 10 No 1, La Tempesta di Mare); Torke (Run); German (Symphony No 2 in A minor)
9.00 **Morning Collection,** with Catriona Young. Includes Walton (Façade Suite No 1); Mozart (Oboe Quartet in F, K370); Tchaikovsky (October, Autumn Song); Berlioz (Herminie)
10.00 **Musical Encounters,** with Fiona Talkington. Includes Adrian Le Roy (Has tu Point Veu); Grainger (Scandinavian Suite) Mendelssohn (Piano Concerto No 1 in G minor); *Artist of the Week:* Moura Lympany, piano. Roland Dyers (Tango en Ska); Wallace (Symphonic Poem No 6 Villon)
12.00 **Composer of the Week: Smetana.** Vivace — Nationalism. String Quartet No 1 in E minor (From My Life, 4th mvt), Festival Overture in D; Ceska Pisen; Haakon Jarl; Macbeth and the Witches
1.00pm **News; Opera Matinee Double Bill.** Martinu (Comedy on the Bridge); Silona Michel, soprano, Alexander Gunther, baritone, and Herbert Dudzik, bass. Ullmann (The Broken Jug); Haik Deinan, bass, Mario Hofl, baritone
3.00 **Three Score Years and Ten.** Looking back at the history of Choral Evensong, which has been broadcasting since 1926
3.05 **Yehuda Hanani Plays Bach.** Cello Suites: No 1 in G, BWV1007; No 3 in C, BWV1009
3.50 **The BBC Orchestras.** BBC Philharmonic, under Matthias Bamert. Dohnanyi (Symphonic Minutes; Symponi No 2 in E)
5.00 **Music Machine,** with Tommy Pearson
5.15 **In Tune,** with Anthony Burton. A special edition featuring music and interviews with this year's Gramophone Award-winners
7.30 **The Controllers' Concerts.** See Choice
9.35 **Third Words.** Sarah Maguire listens to fellow poets reading their work on the Third Programme and explores radio's influence on poetry
10.00 **Music Restored.** George Pratt introduces performances from the 1996 York Early Music Festival. This programme features a recording from All Saints' Church, Harewood House, Leeds (5/7)
10.45 **Night Waves.** Michèle Roberts celebrates National Poetry Day with an exploration of contemporary trends in poetry in Britain and abroad. Plus a report from the Dublin Theatre Festival
11.30 **Composer of the Week: Steve Reich at 60** (r)
12.30am **Jazz Notes,** with Gordon Cruickshank. The second part of an interview with Lalo Schifrin
1.00 **Through the Night,** with Donald Macleod. Including 5.00 Sequence

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing, incl Weather 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 *Today, incl 7.25, 8.25 Sport* 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 Changing Trains. Steven Norris, MP, former Transport Minister, reads his memoirs (4/5) 8.58 Weather
9.00 **News 9.05 Face the Facts,** with John Waite (r)
9.30 **Common Ground**
10.00 **Daily Service (LW) 10.15 On This Day (LW)**
10.00 **News; King Solomon's Carpet,** by Barbara Vine, adapted by Nick Fisher
10.30 **Woman's Hour**
11.30 **From Our Own Correspondent**
12.00 **News; You and Yours**
12.25pm **Questions of Taste.** Chris Kelly hosts the lighthearted culinary quiz, featuring Jennifer Paterson, Fern Britton and Simon Fanshaw 12.55 Weather
1.00 **The World at One**
1.40 **The Archers** (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast
2.00 **News; Late in the Day.** A play by Moya O'Shea
3.00 **News; The Afternoon Shift**
4.00 **News 4.05 Kaleidoscope.** Paul Allen reports from the first week of the Dublin Theatre Festival
4.45 **Short Story: The Falkirk Malteser,** by Douglas Young
5.00 **PM,** with Chris Lowe in Bournemouth and Charlie Lee Potter in London
5.45 **Party Political Broadcast,** by the Labour Party 5.50 *Shipping Forecast* 5.55 Weather
6.00 **Six O'Clock News**
6.30 **And I'm the Queen of Sheba.** Ken Livingstone, MP, chairs a panel game about lies and deceit
7.00 **News 7.05 The Archers**
7.20 **God in a White Coat.** See Choice
8.00 **20/20: A View of the Century.** John Tusa concludes his personal perspective on the last 100 years by exploring the question of belonging and the meaning of the badges of identity we all wear (10/10) (r)
8.45 **The Writer's Day Out.** The series in which writers best known for creating fiction become reporters for the day
9.00 **Does He Take Sugar?** The programme for people with disabilities
9.30 **Kaleidoscope** 9.59 Weather
10.00 **The World Tonight,** with Robin Lustig
10.45 **Book at Bedtime. I'm Here I Think, Where Are You?** The actor Timothy West reads letters written, over a period of 30 years, to his wife Prunella Scales (4/5) (r)
11.00 **The American Wife,** by Richard Nelson. Zoe Wanamaker stars as the American wife in a play specially written for her by one of Britain's most popular American dramatists. With Anton Lesser and Emily Richard (r)
11.30 **Ad Lib.** Robert Robinson talks to portrait painters (r)
12.00 **News,** incl 12.27am approx Weather
12.30 **The Late Book: Two Girls, One a Gazelle,** by Barbara Mercer. Read by Joanna Monro (1/2) 12.48 Shipping Forecast
1.00 **As World Service**

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO UK. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

The scenic route to a predictable destination

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

Last night's **Great Railway Journeys** (BBC2) was a very infuriating programme, especially if sub-editing has ever been one of your passions or skills. The poet and novelist Ben Okri set out by train across Europe to visit the geographical *Arcadia in Greece*, and the result was a dreamy film full of unanswerable questions, delivered with poetic weight. "Have we lost our way? Have we lost our childhoods?" Okri asked. "Is Arcadia a stage on the journey, or is it the destination? Do we travel to escape, or quest?"

Arcadia is a metaphor, you see, for contentment and peace — but we all knew that. Getting the thoughtful Okri to hurry along was the trouble, and mentally blue-pencilling his platitudinous voice-over was a thankless job. Whole paragraphs could be replaced by "There's no place like home" or "It's better to travel hopefully than to arrive", but Okri had to think things through, and we had to watch and admire his long day's journey into trite. Is a well-tempered garden a small version of Arcadia? Hmmmm. Okri discussed this novel idea for a lengthy few minutes with a nice French train driver, while at home I exploded with impatience.

Still, it's a long lane that has no turning, and this journey got better, I admit, when concerned with the anecdotal as opposed to the profound. In Greece, Okri interviewed *a former undertaker from* Cheltenham — now all permanent tan, hippie sandals and iron-grey locks. Loading bodies into coffins had made him appreciate that living is more than being alive, so he had run away and become an artist. "Wouldn't it be magnificent," Okri said, "if we could all be inspired, in life, by death?"

And on the final stage of his journey, he watched Greek landscape unfold from the back of a speeding train — a peculiar viewpoint which inspired him, and made a memorable scene. When travelling forwards, he said, things pass us and are gone forever; whereas from the back of the train they just recede ("They always exist"). But for his conclusion he swooped back to the banal again. "What are we looking for?" he intoned poetically, dignifying the doggerel well beyond its potential. *What are we looking for? What do we find? Arcadia maybe is a state of mind.* But of course it is. Ben; of course it is.

In telly cookery circles, you would imagine a moratorium might exist: no more fish recipes in Cornwall until the waiting list at Rick Stein's restaurant shrinks to less than three months. So it was a measure of the sheer nerve of **Two Fat Ladies** (BBC2) that, for their first venture on screen, the eponymous terrifying posh women, Jennifer Paterson and Clarissa Dickson Wright, roared into Mevagissey on their Wallace-and-Gromit motorbike with sidecar and started demanding cokey from the fisherfolk.

An imperious manner was once considered a drawback on television, but not any more. Now it's marketable. "Let's ask *him*," says Clarissa, as they plod together along the quay in wellies, their hair unflatteringly plastered to their heads by spray and rain. "Who? That kneeling man?" says Jennifer. The only surprise is that she doesn't then call out, "You! Yes, you! Kneeling man!" to get his attention. A slight slur in the *delivery adds even more entertain*ment value, and is evidently genuine. "I like having vermouth around," admits Jennifer in the kitchen, later — as she adds it to her scallop juice. "Because I'm not tempted to drink it."

Still, television broadens the mind: it's an escape and a quest at the same time — hey, phone up a poet and get him to make a programme about it. For a while last night you could experience the world from a very particular point of view — of big, well-spoken women in ugly clothes and no make-up who huddle over a big poker-like kitchen instrument and say "What a wonderful weapon" and "Stick it in the burglar!". The cooking was well done, incidentally, and I particularly enjoyed the moment when Clarissa wiped her hands on Jennifer's oven cloth *and didn't care*. They could eat Delia *Smith* for breakfast, these two. There's a pleasant thought.

Escape or quest? Well, Channel 4's **Moving People** had a mixture of both, as usual. This is a cheaply made but largely inoffensive series, with John Peel introducing three contrasting segments each week — all about real human beings moving house with the aid of bin-liners and heartache and vacuum cleaners with long hoses that won't co-operate. Last night we had a gay couple (Keith and Gary) moving from a high-rise in Deptford to a new semi-detached in Northampton. Getting their miscellaneous stuff out of the lift, with the door trying to bang shut all the time, was a picture of misery most people will recognise. In fact it made me want to scream. But just two hours up the motorway (they drove very fast) was peace and happiness in Northampton, with kitchen cupboards they'd designed themselves. As somebody once said: *What are we looking for? What do we find? Arcadia maybe is a state of mind.*

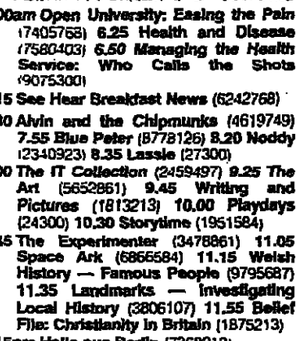
Meanwhile, the second story last night followed a much-travelled British diplomat to Bucharest, and the third showed a released prisoner finding a bedsit. Both travelled light, but for different reasons. The new Romanian Ambassador was taking plastic bags and tennis balls (presumably hard to come by) and his wife's jewellery in a margarine tub. "Home is where we are," said his wife, "so home is now Bucharest." Not a great railway journey but, surprise, it reached the same conclusion.

● *Matthew Bond will appear tomorrow*

6.00am Business Breakfast (16478)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Ceefax) (47749)
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (Ceefax) (5579584) **9.20 Style Challenge** (2544519) **9.45 Kilroy** (s) (2294300) **10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook** (16294)
11.00 News and weather (Ceefax) (6958519)
11.05 Conference Live. Includes speeches from Michael Portillo, the Secretary of State for Defence and Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor. Includes news at **12.00** (93318126)
1.00pm News and weather (Ceefax) (40836)
1.30 Regional News (57320923)
1.40 Neighbours (Ceefax) (44450045) **2.00 Call My Bluff** (3039) **2.30 The Terrace** (s) (316) **3.00 Incognito** (s) (8774)
3.30 *Little Bear* (s) (7321836) **3.55 *The Chipmunks*** (r) (s) (1650836) **4.20 Julia Jekyll and Harriet Hyde** (Ceefax) (s) (8784671) **4.35 Smart** (Ceefax) (s) (3686836) **5.00 Newsround** (Ceefax) (2444519) **5.10 Byker Grove** (Ceefax) (s) (6460923)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) (376132)
6.00 News and weather (Ceefax) (395)
6.30 Regional news magazines (497)
7.00 *Watchdog.* *The consumer magazine* (Ceefax) (s) (7855)
7.30 EastEnders. Kathy asks Grant for his help in her search for the truth (Ceefax) (s) (381)
8.00 Animal Hospital. *Rolf Harris explores the* work of the RSPCA's Harmsworth Memorial Hospital (Ceefax) (s) (9403)
8.30 The Hello Girls. Miss Marriott leaves a cake in the supervisor's room. When the girls try to find out what the cake is for, disaster follows (Ceefax) (s) (5010)
***9.00* Political Broadcast by the Labour Party** (173749)
9.05 News, Regional News and weather (Ceefax) (580855)
9.35 The X Files. Napoleon "Neech" Manley, on death row for more than 11 years, goes to his death vowing to seek revenge on all his enemies. When a guard dies a few days later, Mulder and Scully are called in to investigate the possibility of reincarnation (Ceefax) (s) (402744)
10.20 They Think It's All Over. Nick Hancock comperes a game of wit and sporting knowledge "with a difference" with team captains David Gower and Gary Lineker, who are joined by regulars Rory McGrath and Lee Hurst. Tonight's guests are the comedian Jo Brand and the footballer Chris Waddle (Ceefax) (s) (119229)
10.55 Question Time. David Dimbleby *chairs* this week's debate from Bournemouth. Tonight's guests are Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, Emma Nicholson, Liberal Democrat MP and Ruth Lea, head of the Institute of Directors' Policy Unit (s) (644590)
11.55 Clive Anderson All Talk (r) (s) (9211261)
12.30 FILM: Which Way to the Front? (1970). Jerry Lewis comedy in which a neurotic millionaire has a strong desire to do something to help the war effort. Directed by Jerry Lewis (832461)
2.05am-2.10 Weather *(8266256)*

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
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5.00am Open University: Easing the Pain *(7405768)* ***6.25 Health and Disease*** *(7580403)* ***6.50 Managing the Health Service: Who Calls the Shots*** *(9075300)*
7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (6242768)
7.30 Alvin and the Chipmunks (4619749) **7.55 Blue Peter** (8778126) **8.20 Noddy** (2340923) **8.35 Lassie** (27300)
9.00 *The IT Collection* *(2459497)* **9.25 *The Art*** *(5652861)* **9.45 Writing and Pictures** *(1813213)* **10.00 Playdays** (24300) **10.30 Storytime** (1951584)
10.45 The Experimenter (3478861) **11.05 Space Ark** (6866584) **11.15 Welsh History — Famous People** (9795687) **11.35 Landmarks — Investigating Local History** (3806107) **11.55 Belief File: Christianity in Britain** (1875213)
12.15pm Hallo aus Berlin (7368213)
12.30 Working Lunch (39687) **1.00 Lifeschool** (83830710) **1.25 Mad About Music** (17324720) **1.45 Numbertime** (57330300) **2.00 Noddy** (18548381)
2.10 Conference Live. Includes speeches by Michael Heseltine, Deputy Prime Minister and Gillian Shephard, Education Secretary (219107)
3.55 News (8311942) **4.00 Today's the Day** (710) **4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook** (294) **5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show** (9237768) **5.40 Prue Leith's Tricks of the Trade** (281233)
5.50 More Secret Gardens (773359)
6.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (Ceefax) (s) (638381)
6.45 Conference Talk (s) (776300)
7.30 CHOICE Hacks. Follows five students from college to fully fledged journalists (s) (923)
8.00 CHOICE The Works: A Death in Hollywood (Ceefax) (s) (7045)



Michelle Newman goes east (8.30pm)

8.30 Top Gear. Michelle Newman goes to Prague to find out if the new Octavia will put paid to all those Skoda jokes (Ceefax) (s) (3652)
9.00 Neverwhere: Down Street. An urban fantasy. Richard and Door won the sacred key for the Angel Islington but the Marquis has not appeared — because, it appears, he is dead. So they have to journey into the depths of London without him and come face to face with the worst nightmare, and a traitor in their midst (Ceefax) (s) (1652)
9.30 CHOICE The System: The Old Guard (Ceefax) (s) (884861)
10.25 *A Party Political Broadcast by the* Labour Party (306836)
10.30 Newsnight (Ceefax) (440861)
11.15 Late Review (969126)
12.00 The Limit: The Remotest Robot (24362)
12.30am-6.00 The Learning Zone

CHOICE

Hacks
BBC2, 7.30pm (not Scotland, Northern Ireland)

Whether the five trainee journalists featured in this film might enjoy being described as hacks is not revealed. In any case, they are too excited about getting their first placements to worry what anybody thinks about them. The rookie reporters are students of the Cardiff School of Journalism, 25 years old this year. Sent out with a warning from the school's deputy director that their first taste of real journalism is *likely to make them or break them*, the five step nervously into newspaper offices and broadcasting studios and await their assignments. These turn out to be less exciting than they hoped, with no guarantee that their words will get into print or on the airwaves. But there is a scoop in more senses than one as young Lucy Cypher of *Your Dog* magazine lights upon a clever new device for picking up dog mess.

The Works: A Death in Hollywood
BBC2, 8.00pm (not Scotland, Northern Ireland)

The high-flyer who self-destructs is a familiar tale in Tinseltown. When Don Simpson was found dead from a drugs overdose at the age of 52, his friends were saddened but unsurprised. The director Tony Scott is not being tasteless when he calls it a fitting end. *Scott made one of* Simpson's biggest hits, *Top Gun*. During the 1980s, with his partner, Jerry Bruckheimer, Simpson was one of Hollywood's most successful producers. *Top Gun* was part of a dazzling sequence of money-spinners. But when the bubble burst Simpson hid away in his Bel Air mansion and surrounded himself with drugs and prostitutes. The film suggests that his troubles were caused by a strict religious upbringing. Be that as it may, *this is an unedifying tale which compels little* sympathy for its victim.

Thief Takers: Going Under
ITV, 9.00pm

It seems only the other day that Thief Takers was last on the screen (actually it was March) but a show that pulled in 10 to 12 million viewers was not going to be away for long. There is one change in the London-based armed robbery squad for this second series, the introduction of an attractive woman sergeant played by Amanda Pays. She is given little chance to emerge as an individual, though that is par for a programme which is driven more by action than character. Tonight's script by Roy Mitchell has initial obscurities, which are *not helped by heavily accented actors*. But the plot turns out to be that reliable old standby about the undercover cop who is rumbled by the villains.

The System: The Old Guard
BBC2, 9.30pm

The Department of Social Security is Britain's biggest bureaucracy. Peter Lilley, the Secretary of State, is determined to make it more efficient and cheaper to run. But the mandarins have seen such initiatives before and are sceptical. Ann Bowtell, the department's No 2 civil servant, says the trouble with the system is that ministers do not always understand how it works and she doubts whether it can be simplified. Sir Michael Partridge, the Permanent Secretary and 35 years in the department, also fights the Civil Service corner. The film charts work on an *impossibly complicated new* Pensions Bill, reveals the fallout from a *government reshuffle and follows Sir* Michael to the Public Accounts Committee, where he has to explain the disappearance of £2 billion of public money. **Peter Waymark**

6.00am GMTV (7641045)
9.25 Supermarket Sweep (Teletext) (s) (2449010)
9.55 Regional News (6236294)
10.00 The Time . . . the Place (s) (29126)
10.30 This Morning *(27626958)*
12.20pm Regional News (7413294)
12.30 News (Teletext) and weather (3155336)
12.55 Shortland Street (3163855) **1.25 Coronation Street** (r) (Teletext) (6271132) ***2.00 Home and Away*** *(Teletext)* (27764213) **2.25 Quisine** (Teletext) (27743720) **2.50 Vanessa** (Teletext) (9869584)
3.20 News headlines (Teletext) (5408584)
3.25 Regional News *(Teletext)* (5467855)
3.30 The Riddlers (9619942) **3.40 Wizadora** (s) (6039671) **3.50 *Old Bear Stories*** (s) (9793958) **4.05 Scooby Doo** (4674720) **4.15 Woof!** (r) (Teletext) (s) (1543811) **4.45 It's a Mystery** (Teletext) (4935328)
5.10 A Country Practice (s) (8264300)
5.40 News *and weather (Teletext) (729355)*
6.00 Home and Away (r) (Teletext) (276749)
6.25 HTV News (Teletext) (523590)
7.00 Emmerdale *(Teletext)* (s) (2923)
7.30 The Big Story. A special "family" assembled by the programme moves in to one of Britain's worst housing estates to record experiences that some residents describe as "more dangerous that Croatia". Within days of their arrival, the mock family are offered stolen goods, suffer break-ins and find children taking drugs on their doorstep (s) (749)
8.00 The Bill. Cryer and Keane are shocked to discover the murky past of a teenage girl found murdered (Teletext) (1671)
8.30 Schofield's TV Gold. Phillip Schofield presents another collection of classic comedy clips (Teletext) (s) (7478)



Amanda Pays as DS Dryden (9.00pm)

9.00 CHOICE Thief Takers: Going Under (Teletext) (s) (3749)
10.00 Political Broadcast by the Labour Party (941497)
10.05 News (Teletext) and **Weather** (794861)
10.35 Regional News (Teletext) (657774)
10.45 The West Story. Behind the scenes of the West Country midwives' centre which provides mothers-to-be with a complete choice in how and where they give birth (Teletext) (519774)
11.15 The West This Week (516687)
11.45 Swift Justice (s) (772132)
12.40am War of the Worlds *(s) (7524275)*
1.40 Not Fade Away (8174256)
2.40 Flux (s) (6451492)
3.40 Late & Loud *(r) (s) (6694343)*
4.35 The Time . . . the Place (r) (s) (85173445)
5.00 Garden Calendar (r) (28968)
5.30 News (29817)

As HTV WEST except:
6.25pm-7.00 Wales Tonight (523590)
7.30-8.00 Fishlock's Wild Tracks (749)
10.45 The Ferret *(519774)*
11.15 A Sporting Double (516687)
11.45 The Big Story (515958)
***12.15am* Alfred Hitchcock** (7036365)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.55 Emmerdale (3163855)
1.25-1.55 Quisine (74385805)
1.55 Home and Away (14713107)
2.25 Vanessa (27767300)
2.55-3.20 A Country Practice (8843978)
***5.10-5.40* Home and Away** (8264300)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (34132)
10.45 A Day in the Life (519774)
11.15 Power Game (516687)
11.45 Prisoner Cell Block H (772132)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.55 Home and Away (3163855)
1.25 Quisine (74385805)
1.55 A Country Practice (44351720)
2.20 Vanessa (27848229)
2.50-3.20 High Road (9869584)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (8264300)
6.25 Central News and Weather (284768)
10.45 London Bridge (519774)
11.15 Revelations (516687)
11.45 Crime Story (504958)
12.50am Planet Rock Profiles (6570701)
1.20 Funny Business (6768343)
1.45 Not Fade Away (452508)
2.45 Flux (5781275)
3.35 Crime Hour *(6602362)*

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
12.55pm Quisine (3163855)
1.25 Home and Away (74385805)
1.55 Shortland Street *(44351720)*
2.20 Vanessa (27848229)
2.50-3.20 Houseparty (9869584)
5.10 Home and Away (8264300)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (213)
6.30-7.00 True . . . but Strange (565)
10.50 Film: Murder Times Seven (46413381)

S4C

Starts: 6.35 Pro Stars (9152403) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (36687) **9.00 Here's One I Made Earlier** (71520) **9.30 Ysgolion: Middle English** (1810126) **9.45 Maths** (5179229) **10.05 Scientific Eye** (5064403) **10.25 Geographical Eye** (4702478) **10.45 Le Petit Monde de Pierre** (1941107) **11.00 English** (9612300) **11.20 Film and Video Showcase** (9576010) **11.40 Spanish** (1872126) **12.00 *Wild West Country*** *(23584)* ***12.30pm Backdate*** *(51855)* **1.00 Slot Meithrin** (6194039) ***1.35 Film: The Scamp*** *(45305687)* **3.15 Rickl Lake** (9704671) **4.00 Fifteen to One** (478) **4.30 Pet Patients** (590) **5.00 5 Pump: Uned 5** (3229) **5.30 Countdown** (942) **6.05 Heno** (287855) **6.35 Jacpot** (436294) **7.00 Pobol Y Cwm** (650687) **7.25 Rownd Pwy Nesa'?** (738300) **8.00 Gorau Gwiad** (9213) **8.30 Darliediad Gwleidyddol Gan Y Blaid Latur** (659923) **8.35 Newyddion** (596855) **9.05 *Iwcs Y Forwyn Chalet*** *(505836)* **9.40 Gogs** (622045) **10.00 Film: Life Is Sweet** (945497) ***11.55 Tommy Davidson*** *(579132)* ***12.35am* Botticelli's Primavera** (7523546)

6.35am *Pro Stars* *II)* (9152403)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (36687)
9.00 Here's One I Made Earlier (71520)
9.30 Schools: Middle English **9.45 The Maths Programme 10.05 Scientific Eye** *10.25 Geographical Eye 10.45 Le* **Petit Monde de Pierre 11.00 The English Programme 11.20 Film and Video Showcase 11.40 The Spanish Programme** (195381)
12.00 Wild West Country (Teletext) (s) (23584) **12.30pm Backdate** (Teletext) (51855) **1.00 Sesame Street** (8078403) **1.55 Joe McDoakes** (57316720)
2.10 FILM: The Guinea Pig *(b/w, 1948)* starring Richard Attenborough. A working-class schoolboy is sent to a public school as an experiment. Directed by Ray Boulting (884359)
4.00 Fifteen to One (Teletext) (s) (478) **4.30 Countdown: The Search for the *Supreme Champion*** *(Teletext) (s)* (590) **5.00 Ricki Lake** (s) (2839403) **5.45 Travelog Treks** *(Teletext)* (336382)
6.00 Eerie Indiana (r) (Teletext) (855)
6.30 Hollyoaks (Teletext) (s) (107)
7.00 Channel 4 News *(Teletext)* (5107)
8.00 Dosh. Includes an interview with Dawna Henson, a hill farmer who manufactures organic cot mattresses (2/7) (9213)



Presenter Sophie Anderton (8.30pm)

8.30 NEW Desire. Fashion series presented by Sophie Anderton. Includes a preview of Jasper Conran's *spring/summer 1997 collection (8720)*
9.00 FILM: One Woman's Courage (1994) starring Patty Duke. A woman sees a murder and steps forward as a witness, but the killer is acquitted and wants revenge. Directed by Charles Robert Carner (12839861)
10.45 A Big Slice of Jo Brand *(3641107)*
11.55 Four-Mations: Continental Passions. Includes **The Invisible Man in Blind Love**, a tribute to H G. Wells, followed by **The Dance Floor** based on Astaire-and-Rogers musicals, and **The Criminal** (914836)
12.30am Kids in the Hall *(5323072)*
1.05 Four-Mations: Shorts. European shorts inspired by Hollywood. Includes **Pas A Deux**, which takes a Hollywood-style dance into unexpected areas. Followed by Aidan Hickey's **Inside Job**, about a Bogart-inspired dentist, **Baeus**, a *reworking of the Sleeping Beauty theme* from Bruno Bozzetto, and Paul de Nooijer's **The Fortified City**, which makes a philtated comment on the nature of cinema (s) (4087492)
1.45 FILM: Tiger Shark (b/w, 1932) with Edward G. Robinson and Richard Arlen. The captain of a tuna-fishing schooner embarks on an ill-fated love affair after *performing an heroic rescue*. Directed by Howard Hawks (2619850) Ends **3.05**

● **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday**

SKY 1

7.00am Undun (89565) **9.00** Press Your Luck (5192774) **9.20** Jeopardy! (2292861) **9.45** Oprah Winfrey (3600861) **10.40** Real TV (2455942) **11.10** Sally Jessy Raphael (9327805) **12.00** Geraldo (90788) **1.00pm** 1 to 3 (67039) **3.00** Jenny Jones (12805) **4.00** Oprah Winfrey (815901) **5.00** Quantum Leap (2942) ***6.00 Superman*** *(896562)* **7.00** LAPD (3671) **7.30** M*A*S*H (6497) **8.00** Through the Keyhole (2519) **8.30** Southenders (8126) **9.00** Intruders (26107) **10.00** Quantum Leap (29294) **11.00** Superman (76229) **12.00** Midnight Caller (43508) ***1.00am*** LAPD (58898) **1.30** Real TV (68904) **2.00** Hit Mix (65409)

SKY 2

7.00pm Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (4314403) **8.00** Police Rescue (4227903) **9.00** Seperation (4220010) **11.00** Late Show (1350862) **12.00 FILM: Shock Treatment** (2077966) **2.00am** Hit Mix

SKY NEWS

Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on the hour, *24 hours a day, seven days a week*

SKY MOVIES

6.00am The Fish That Saved Pittsburgh *(1979)* *(41836)* **8.00 The Gay Divorcee** (1934) (61855) **10.00 Season of Change** (1994) (82749) **12.00 The Aviator** (1985) (51478) **2.00pm Ivana Trump's for Love Alone** (1994) (16774) **4.00 Mountain Family Robinson** *(1979)* (6864) **6.00 Season of Change** (1994) (12865403) **7.40 US Top Ten** (7248661) **8.00 Dumb and Dumber** (1994) (7548749?) **9.45 The Movie Show** (6117101) **10.15 Chasers** (1994) (389942) ***12.00 Dumb and* Dumber** (1994) (603083) **1.45am The Vagrant** (1992) (4183324) **3.15-6.00 Choices of the Heart: the Margaret Sanger Story** (1994) (35742362)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am Four Jills in a Jeep (1944) (1457045) **7.35 Willy Fog: Around the World in 80 Days** (3179738) **9.00 Mr Horatio Knibbles** (74958) **10.00 Tripoli** (1950) (86519) **12.00 The Remains of the Day** (1993) (18835316) **2.15pm The Big Game** (1995) (945580) **4.00 Mr Horatio Knibbles** (8141045) **5.05 A Journey to the Centre of the Earth** (5585855) **6.00 The Face on the Milk Carton** (1995) (12781497) **7.45 The Remains of the Day** *(1993)* *(55975590)* **10.00 Blown Away** (1994) (98836) **12.00 The Pamela Principle 2** (1994) (901885) **1.45am Deadly Whispers** *(1994)* (180508) **3.20 *Adventures of a Plumber's Mate*** **(1978)** (5050514) ***4.50-6.00 A Journey to the Centre of the Earth*** (7766140)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00 An American in Paris (1951) (3478) **6.00 The Corn Is Green** (1979) (80792) **8.00 Mickey Spillane's Mike Hammer: Murder Me, Murder You** (1983) (17497) **10.00 Best Seller** (1987) (566039) **11.40 Oh! What a Lovely War** (1969) (50460213) **2.05 Compulsion** (1959) (3679904) **3.50 A Day's Pleasure** (1919) (79644898) **4.15 The Gold Rush** (1942) (5267121) **5.30 Close** (1942) (47275)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

Sky Movies Gold from 10pm to 4am.
6.00am Bonkers (3734577) **6.25** Mouse Tracks (6702872) **6.50** Darkwing Duck (5553774) **7.15** Quack Attack (5077364) **7.40** Aladdin (4280213) **8.05** Gool Troop (6465958) **8.30** Bonkers (71294) **8.55** Mouse Tracks (68774) **9.30** Lamb Chop (37215) ***10.00 Muppet Babies*** *(85584)* **10.30** Adventures in Wonderland (64958) **11.00** Quack Attack (76010) **11.30** Under the Umbrella Tree (86039) **12.00** Fraggle Rock (25010) **12.30pm** Lamb Chop (27251) **1.00** Gool Troop (98590) **1.30** Aladdin (77792) **2.00** Darkwing Duck (3855) ***2.30 Best of Walt*** Disney (1681300) **3.25** Mouse Tracks (6870720) **3.50** Darkwing Duck (2167871) **4.15** Bonkers (2177300) **4.35** Gool Troop (1958738) ***5.00*** Aladdin (4107) **5.30** Okavango (3720) **6.00** Crossbow (6861) ***6.30 Blossom*** *(4213)* **7.00** Home Improvment (7671) **7.35 FILM: Disney's Iron Will** (78126) **9.30-10.00** Home Improvement (96045)

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre (30497) **7.30** WWF (77590) **8.30** Racing (40300) ***9.00 Sports*** Centre (31652) **9.30** Aerobics Oz Style (78671) ***10.00 European*** Golf Alfred Dunhill Cup Day One — Live (7587861) **4.30pm** Inside the PGA Tour (1584) **4.59** Sports Centre (8550478) **5.00** WWF (9958) **6.00** Sports Centre (8749) **6.30** Formula Three (6229) **7.00** Trans World Sport (66749) **8.00** Nettbusters (75497) **9.00** Sailing (23560) **9.30** Formula Three (69923) ***10.00 Sports*** Centre (25045) **10.30** European Golf (92923) **12.00** World of Sailing (95102) **12.30** Sports Centre (68256) **1.00** Nettbusters (70362) **2.00-2.30** Sports Centre (16643)

SKY SPORTS 2

8.00pm Tight Lines (8154923) **9.00** Spanish Football (815701) **11.00** Bobby Charlton's Football Scrapbook (8489738) **12.30-1.30** Blood, Sweat and Glory

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00 In-Line Skating (71274720) **1.00pm** England v Poland (77243958) **3.00** Futbol Mundial (92214861) **3.30** Grass Roots Rugby (55762836) **4.00** NFL (92129749) ***6.00 In-Line*** Skating (71376132) **6.59** Sports Centre (17161774) **7.00** Football League Review (78943132) **8.00** Golf USA: LaCantera Texas Open — Live (90560294) **10.30** Tight Lines (56317229) **11.30-12.00** Sports Centre (77155749)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Equestrianism (79958) **8.30** Football (138861) **11.30** Formula 1 (33923) **12.00** Motorcycling Magazine (46584) **12.30pm** Cycling — Live (865403) **3.30** Tennis — Live (2169585) **8.00** Sumo (60665) **9.00** Football (63652) **11.00** Sailing (20403) **11.30** Tennis (58382) **12.00-12.30** Eurotun (93430) **5.00** Formula 1 — Live

GRANADA PLUS

8.00am Runway **8.30** Once Upon a Time **8.45** Our Backyard **7.00** Alphabet Zoo **7.30** The Return of the Antelope **8.00** Classic Coronation Street **8.30** Runway **9.00** Families **9.30** Albion Market **10.00** Making It **10.30** *Lesve it to Charlie* **11.00** Sam **12.00** Surgical Spirit **12.30pm** Classic Coronation Street **1.00** The Practice **1.30** Families **2.00** Magpet **3.00** Leave it to Charlie **3.30** Edge of Britain **4.00** Love for Lydia **5.15** Families **6.00** The Army Game **6.30** Classic Coronation Street **7.00** Albion Market **7.30** Surgical Spirit **8.00** Sam **9.00** The Good Life Guide **9.25** Classic Coronation Street **10.00-11.00** Lady Killers
From 11.00pm-2.00am Men and Motors

GRANADA GOOD LIFE

From 6.00am-9.00 TV High Street. Includes consumer news and features and Your Stars presented by Russell Grant

Jim Carrey and Jeff Daniels (Sky Movies, 8.00pm, 12 midnight)

From 9.00-12.00 Food and Wine. Includes recipes and ideas from Delia Smith
From 12.00-3.00pm Health and Beauty. Includes Diet and Fitness with Rosemary Conley
From 3.00-6.00 Home and Garden. Includes The Good Life Style Guide

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Biography (8622838) **5.00** Memories of 1991 (2054774) **6.00** Stalin (3858229) **7.00-8.00** Biography (8241403)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

Films, features and classic series every day from **8pm-4am** Monday to Wednesday and **1am-4am** Thursday to Sunday on satellite, and from **8am-4am** every day on cable.
1.00am *Tales of the Unexpected (6809904)*
1.30 New Alfred Hitchcock (9206411) **2.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents (3800782) **2.30** Red Sorling's Night Gallery (3829817) **3.00** Friday the 13th (6768169) **3.55-4.00** Quarks (16935256)

TLC/DISCOVERY

9.00am The Joy of Painting (7417565) **9.30** *The Garden Show (8000847)* **10.00** Two's Country (4693584) **10.30** The House (7413749) **11.00** Furniture to Go (5160519) **11.30** Crafatsie (5058720) **12.00** Julia Child (7500229) **12.30pm** Graham Kerr (5951377) **1.00** Yan Can Cook (7168519) **1.30** Home Again, with Bob Vila (8301819) **2.00** Hometime (8088497) **2.30** Garden Club (5704497) **3.00** Rex Hunt's Fishing Adventures (8173132) **3.30-4.00** The Old House, with Steve and Norm (5709942)
From 4.00pm-Midnight DISCOVERY as below.

4.00pm Rex Hunt's Fishing Adventures (5795749) **4.30** Bush Tucker Man (5880861) **5.00** Time Travellers (8089719) **5.30** Jurassica II (5708213) **6.00** Shark Week. Sharks of Pirate Island (9355738) **7.00** Crocodile Hunters (8092213) **7.30** Arthur C Clarke's Mysterious World (5881580) **8.00** Shark Week. Ultimate Guide (2257855) **9.00** Top Marques II Aston Martin (5077855) **9.30** Top Marques II BMW (4305233) **10.00** Shark Week. Cards of Ningaloo (2247478) **11.00-12.00** Best of British (7072768)

UK GOLD

7.00am Lassie (7065478) **7.30** Give Us A Clue (7077213) **8.00** Neighbours (5111132) **8.25** EastEnders (5525855) **9.00** The Bill (7419823) **9.30** The Sullivans (7751359) **10.00** One by One (7073497) **11.00** Bullseye (5086749) **11.30** Sale of the Century (5067478) **12.00** Tellystack (7502687) **12.30pm** Neighbours (3151395) **1.00** EastEnders (1681958) **1.35** Never the Twain (9941403) **2.15** Ever Decreasing Circles (3226861) **2.50** Brush Strokes (9430720) **3.30** The Bill (5701300) **4.00** Howards' Way (5153229) **5.00** Bullseye (8081107) **5.30** What a Carry On! (5700671) **6.00** Tellystack (5707584) **6.30** EastEnders (5547720) **7.05** Odd One Out (5555229) **7.45** A Little Bit of Emery (4851584) **8.00** Funny You Ask (8193519) **8.30** Up the Elephant and round the Castle (8099126) **9.00** The Equalizer (2248749) **10.00** The Bill (5852126) **10.35** The Young Ones (5053565) **11.15** Taggan (4909890) **12.20am FILM: The Riddle of the Sands** (9488904) **2.00** Shopping at Night (9766898)

TCC

6.00am *Swan's Crossing (805794?)* ***6.20*** Meltdown: No Naked Flames (4706297) **6.45** Degrassi Junior High (760710) **7.15** Ready or Not (910233) **7.45** California Dreams (360774) **8.15** Sweet Valley High (601229) **8.45** *An Attack* (8736369) **9.00** Tiny TCC (until 3.00pm): Tiny and Crew (9851126) **9.20** *Mr Benn* (9037590) **9.40** Teddy Trucks (4958671) **9.50** Towser (4954855) **10.00** 10+2 (7826478) **10.20** The Clangers (8856039) **10.40** Bertha (3128132) **11.00** Dinobabies (81584) **11.30** Jim Henson's Animal Show (82213) **12.00** Barney (88584) **12.30pm** Oscar's Orchestra (16853) **1.00** Casper and Friends (64756) **1.30** Tiny and Crew (4556285) **1.55** Mr Benn (77424774) **2.20** Towser (80936590) **2.30** Christopher Crocodile (3670478) **2.40** Bertha (9153768) **3.00** *Degrassi Junior High* (5836) **3.30** Ready or Not (7923) **4.00** California Dreams (9958) **4.30-5.00** Sweet Valley High (5942)

NICKELODEON

6.00am Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (16958) **6.30** Biker Mice from Mars (99652) **7.00** Rocko's Modern Life (7093479) **7.15** Hey Arnold (8575958) **7.30** Rugrats (13774) **8.00** *Doug (49671)* **8.30** Aaahh!!! Real Monsters (48942) **9.00** Where in the World Is Carmen Sandiego? (39294) **9.30** Wishbone (76213) **10.00** Bananas in Pyjamas (4376229) **10.10** Katie and Orbie (7837215) **10.35** Mr Men (6386589) **10.40** Wild Quack (8362403) **10.45** Bananas in Pyjamas (6826766) **11.00** BBC Block (28294) **12.00** Clarissa Explains It All (22958) **12.30pm** *Sister Sister (50229)* ***1.00*** Babar (20010) **1.30** Littles! Pet Shop (79300) **2.00** Little Bear Stories (3213) **2.30** BBC Block (67497) **3.30** Aaahh!!! Real Monsters (1107) **4.00** Hey Arnold (3942) **4.30** Rugrats (7711331) **4.45** Doug (2761836) **5.00** Sister Sister (4565) **5.30** Moesha (1738) **6.00** Space Cases (3519) **6.30-7.00** Are You Afraid of the Dark? (4671)

PARAMOUNT

7.00pm Different Strokes (7229) **7.30** Benson (6805) **8.00** Due South (2279) **8.30** Due South (2584) **9.00** Almost Perfect (21132) **9.30** Tau (67585) **10.00** ET Uk (23687) **10.30** Dr Katz (38107) **11.00** Nightstand (37749) **11.30** Nightstand (82316) **12.00** Sledgehammer (95184) **12.30am** Kids in the Hall (86898) **1.00** Due South (62258) **1.30** Due South (79102) **2.00** ET UK (18625) **2.30** Dr Katz (85782) **3.00** Nightstand (42492) **3.30-4.00** Nightstand (56102)

BRAVO

12.00 *Faraway Island* (5650120) **1.00pm** Remington Steele (5850328) **2.00** Randall and Hopkirk (Deceased) (4696039) **3.00** Land of the Giants (5152560) **4.00 FILM: Buona Sera, Mrs Campbell** (8171774) **6.00** Thun



CYCLING 45
Boardman continues quest to stay top of the world

SPORT

GOLF 46
St Andrews lures formidable list of challengers



THURSDAY OCTOBER 10 1996

Estonia await Fifa punishment after failing to turn up for World Cup qualifying tie

Scotland expect to get win bonus

IT WAS the most one-sided match imaginable. John Collins, captaining his country, led Scotland out for the World Cup qualifier with Estonia here yesterday. All was very nearly what it should have been as his players lined up beside the referee, Miroslav Radoman, and the two linesmen before preparing to kick off. All that was missing was the opposition.

Estonia had refused to accept a rescheduled start of 3pm local time for the game after complaints by the Scottish Football Association on Tuesday night over the unsatisfactory state of the floodlighting. The hosts decided that they would adhere to the previous time-table and arrived at the Kadriorg stadium at 5pm. A few locals applauded

Empty triumph 1
Forgotten man 44
Butt shines 44

lustily as the players appeared and lights were switched on for a fixture originally intended to begin at 6.45pm.

It had been at 3 o'clock, however, that the referee blew. Billy Dodds rolled the ball forward from the centre-spot to Collins, who took a few steps into the unoccupied territory of Estonia's half, before another shriek of the whistle ended the phantom action. According to Jim Farry, the SFA chief executive, the few available precedents suggest that Scotland will have been deemed to have won 3-0 in a walkover.

That outcome seemed satisfactory to several hundred visiting supporters who are on a Baltic tour that began with the qualifying match with Latvia on Saturday. "One team in Tallinn," they sang, and for once a football chant was possessed of complete accuracy. Later, these visitors bellowed out the appeal, "All we are saying is give us a game", but there was no genuine rancour.

Whimsy was one noticeable response to the quirky non-events and, after Scotland had left the pitch, a fan in yellow T-shirt and kilt did run onto the field to kick a ball into the empty net. Underlying the jests, however, was an air of melancholy. It is a mood that will deepen when Estonia are punished by Fifa, football's world governing body, perhaps by a fine as well as the forfeit of the match.

The antics of Scottish supporters will also have stoked their resentment. "We are not happy, but we have to accept that we have lost the points," Aiver Pohlak, vice-president of the Estonian FA, said. "This is the SFA's responsibility." The visitors complaints may have persuaded the Fifa commissioner at this tie, Jean-Marie Gantenbein, of Luxembourg, but the local people regarded them as unreasonable.

The existing illumination at the humble little stadium was known to be inadequate and it had been supplemented by temporary equipment brought over from Finland. That, however, was placed on platforms only slightly above the level of the pitch.

Some patches of the field were in deep shadow and a goalkeeper facing a cross from one particular wing found himself staring into the glare. "Our protest was based on a sporting principle," Farry said. "Our goalkeeper could not see the ball coming in from the left-hand side."

Although the inconvenience of it all has enraged the Estonians, who state that Italy played here under the same circumstances, any reasonable observer would agree that the conditions were unacceptable. The SFA's views were communicated to Fifa, in Zurich. Yesterday morning, Farry found that Gantenbein, the commissioner, was in agreement with him. "It was his firm view that conditions did not meet Fifa's minimum requirements," said the chief executive.

An emergency sub-committee of Fifa made the decision to bring forward the kick-off and both countries were informed of this final ruling at 9am yesterday morning. SFA officials then spread through Tallinn, visiting hotels, burger bars, restaurants and pubs to inform supporters of the change. No such spirit of co-operation touched the Estonian FA.

They viewed the new arrangements as wholly unfair to local supporters who, still at work, would be unavailable to attend. "It's important that we have sympathy for the Estonians," Farry said. "I wouldn't like to find a game at Hampden Park switched from eight o'clock to midday. It leaves a lot to be done regarding policing and other arrangements, but if you are instructed by Fifa then you have to comply."

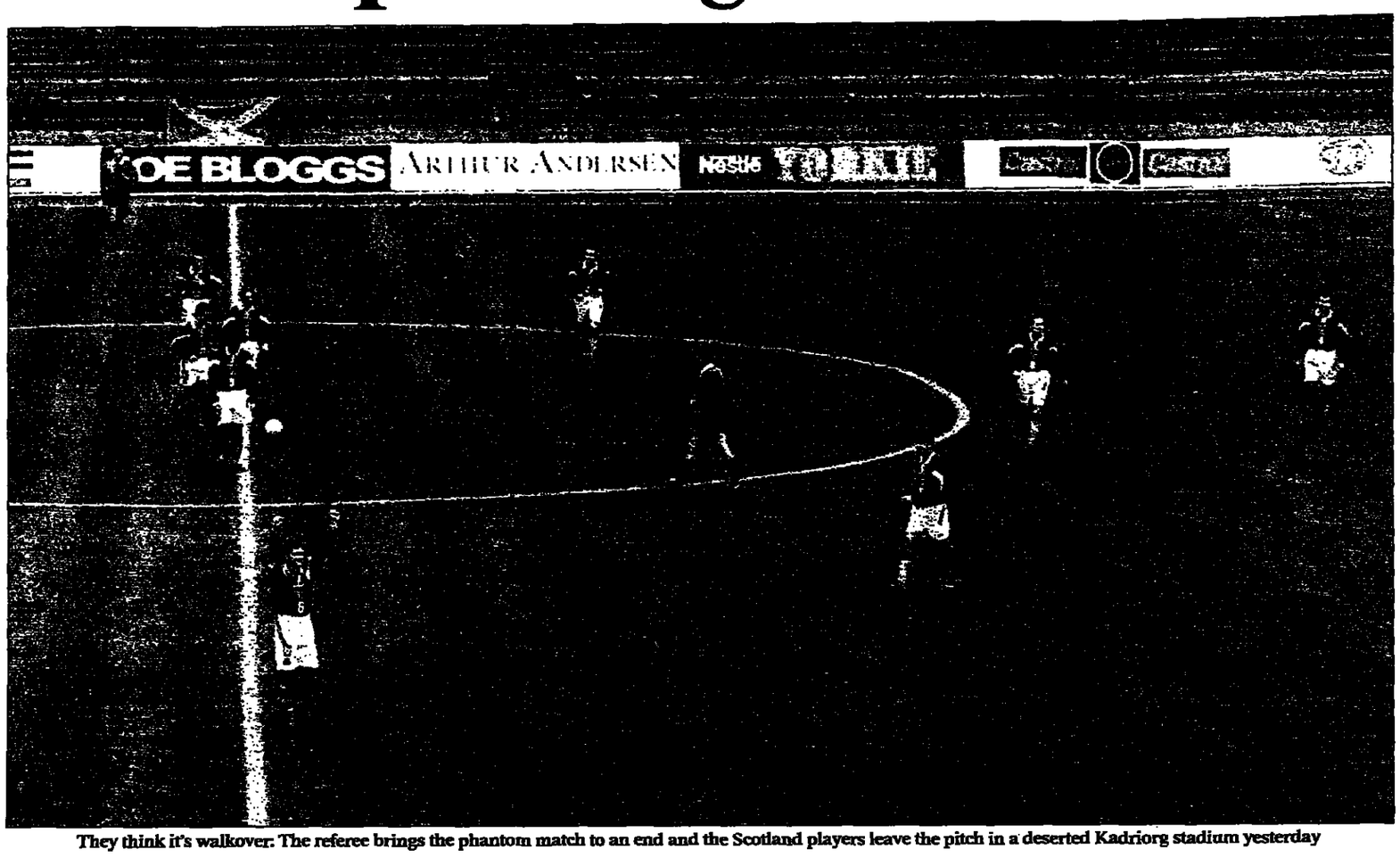
The Estonia team remained at their camp in Kehra, some 30 miles away, but Scotland prepared and warmed up in the conviction that their opponents would make a late arrival. The grievances of the Estonian FA may, at least in part, spring from financial considerations, since rights for live coverage of the game, with its 6.45 kick-off, had been sold. "Finance was mentioned," Farry confirmed.

Craig Brown, the Scotland manager, brushed aside the suggestion that the Estonians, with six hours' notice, could not arrive in time. "We were here at 1pm despite considerable inconvenience to ourselves," he added. In 124 years of international football, no Scotland side has ever found itself in such circumstances before and the consequences have still to be assessed.

The captain, Gary McAllister, for example, was due to serve his one-match suspension in this game and Brown fears it may now be applied to a more testing fixture, against Sweden, next month. The cancelled match yesterday also cost Dodds an opportunity to start his first game for Scotland.

Estonia, however, may suffer the greatest pain of all when Fifa decide on the extent of the sanctions to be applied to them.

SCOTLAND (4-3-3): A Goram (Rangers) — J McNamara (Celtic), T Boyd (Celtic), C Calderwood (Tottenham Hotspur), T McGinlay (Celtic) — C Burley (Chelsea) P Lambert (Borussia Dortmund), J Collins (AS Monaco) — J McGinlay (Bolton Wanderers), W Dodds (Aberdeen), D Jackson (Hibernian).



They think it's walkover: The referee brings the phantom match to an end and the Scotland players leave the pitch in a deserted Kadriorg stadium yesterday

Meeting to decide destiny of points

A MEETING of Fifa on November 7 will rule on the events at the Kadriorg stadium yesterday. The report of Jean-Marie Gantenbein, the Fifa commissioner, and Miroslav Radoman, the referee, as well as a protest later received from the Estonian Football Association against the decision, will be studied and presented by October 20 to the Fifa Organising Committee for the World Cup.

After the confusion of the farcical events, Fifa issued a statement clarifying exactly what happened. The kick-off time was brought forward after a protest by the Scotland team on Tuesday night was upheld. The protest had maintained that the temporary floodlights installed for the match were not adequate, and this was confirmed by Gantenbein.

The decision to move the kick-off time was notified to both teams some five hours before the rearranged start. Gantenbein reported that only the Scotland team appeared on the pitch at the new time. The Estonia team was not in the stadium.

The regulations for the preliminary competition of the 1998 World Cup stipulate in article six, paragraph six: "If a team does not report for a match — except in cases of *force majeure* recognised by the organising committee — the team shall be considered as having lost. The match and the three points shall be awarded to their opponents with a score of 3-0."

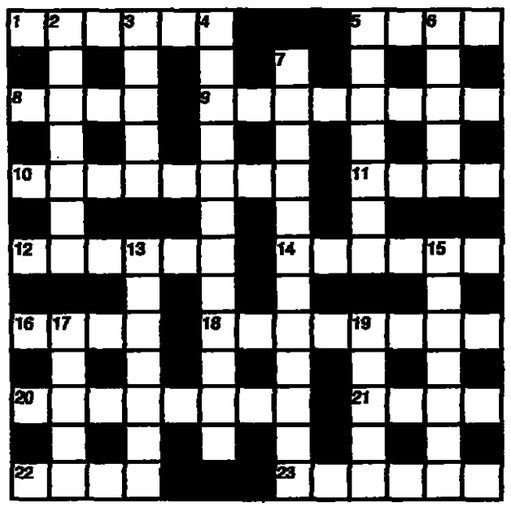
While Scotland will be delighted to be given the points, the afternoon proved frustrating for the players, especially Billy Dodds, the Aberdeen forward.

He was due to make his first start for Scotland after a substitute appearance in the 2-0 win over Latvia last Saturday. "I am absolutely gutted about this," he said.

"You have no idea how ready I was for this game. I was on a hot streak of scoring and felt I could get a goal for my country. I am more gutted than anyone. You never know, I might never get the chance again to start a game for Scotland. Even five minutes before the game we thought they were going to turn up, jump off the bus and give us a game."

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 909 in association with BRITISH MIDLAND



ACROSS
1 *Fortinbras its Prince (Hamlet)* (6)
5 Sunbathe (4)
8 *Venerable* Eng. historian (4)
9 Storyteller (8)
10 Absence of light (8)
11 Wheel-holding spindle (4)
12 Announcer, precursor (6)
14 Untouched, unused (6)
16 Wearing shoes (4)
18 Put into order: run (event) (8)
20 Manchester massacre (1819) (8)
21 Taunt, spur on (4)
22 Bulk: quantity of matter (4)
23 Idle conversation (6)

DOWN
2 Manage, make to work (7)
3 Fate of Deutschland, of Hesperus (5)
4 "— went to town" *(US song)* (6,6)
5 Brazenly obvious (7)
6 Backless seat (5)
7 Wrap over eg pyjamas (8,4)
13 Deal with; speak to (7)
15 Sequence of triggered events (7)
17 African "dog" (5)
19 Period of 10 (5)

PRIZES:
THE WINNER will receive a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on British Midland's domestic or international network.
THE RUNNER-UP will receive a return ticket to anywhere on British Midland's domestic network. British Midland offers an extensive range of departure and destination points throughout the UK as well as Europe. As the UKs second largest scheduled service airline and Heathrows second biggest user, it operates a fleet of 35 aircraft on over 1200 flights per week throughout the UK and Europe.
All flights are subject to availability.

British Midland

Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 6886, London E2 8SP to arrive by next Monday. The winners' names and solution will appear on Wednesday.

Name/Address .....

.....

SOLUTION TO NO 908

ACROSS: 6 Glazier 7 Abhor 9 Pinch 10 Praised 11 Belle Epoque 14 Catastrophe 17 Throw in 19 Loser 21 Haste 22 Outside

DOWN: 1 Dawn 2 Nicholas 3 Triple 4 Data 5 Physique 6 Gape 8 Rudder 11 Buttress 12 Populate 13 Scotch 15 Random 16 True 18 Wren 20 Skit



Jean-Marie Gantenbein, the Fifa commissioner, considers what action should be taken before the ruling that led to the Scotland match in Estonia being abandoned

Game of many mishaps

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE Scotland v Estonia affair is just the latest in a long line of footballing debacles.

Two years ago, the game in Spain was in turmoil when, after the relegation of two sides for financial irregularities, it was decided that the clubs had not merited such harsh punishment. Both teams were reinstated but two other teams had already taken their place. In the end the fixture list was rewritten and the division expanded to accommodate all four sides.

The 1982 World Cup match between West Germany and Austria saw the sides going into the game knowing that a 1-0 victory to the Germans would ensure that they both progressed, at the expense of Algeria. The required result duly followed in a game almost totally devoid of attacking football.

The African qualifying group for the 1974 World Cup finals was a curious affair. The match between Ghana and Nigeria was abandoned with Nigeria leading 3-2, but Ghana were awarded the game 2-0. The game between Morocco and Zaire was never played, but Zaire were also awarded a 2-0 victory.

The crucial South American qualifying game for the 1990 World Cup between Brazil and Chile was abandoned after 65 minutes with Brazil leading 1-0. A flare had been thrown at the Chile goalkeeper, and his team-mates carried him off. However, it transpired that the flare had not actually hit him, and his bleeding was self-inflicted. Brazil were awarded the points and Chile were excluded from the 1994 finals.

In the European championship of 1960, when games were played in the home team's country, Spain were drawn to play the Soviet Union in the quarter-finals. General Franco forbade the Spaniards from playing in a communist country and so they withdrew. Four years later, Greece were drawn to play Albania. As the countries were at war, Greece withdrew and Albania went through.

MATCHES THAT NEVER WERE

- 1995: International between Ireland and England was abandoned after rioting by visiting supporters.
- 1990: World Cup qualifier between Brazil and Chile was abandoned when Chile goalkeeper Rojas feigned injury after flares were thrown on pitch
- 1982: Costa Rica did not turn up to play El Salvador in World Cup qualifier because of political unrest
- 1974: Soviet Union refused to play World Cup qualifier against Chile in Santiago for political reasons and were disqualified
- 1974: Nigeria's World Cup qualifier against Ghana was abandoned after crowd trouble. Nigeria were subsequently banned from the finals.
- 1964: Greece did not play Albania in the European championship because the countries were officially at war.
- 1960: Spain refused to travel to the Soviet Union in the European Cup on General Franco's orders and were disqualified.

Events that left fans in the dark

SCOTLAND'S three-second non-match in Estonia was the culmination of a farcical series of events that began to unfold on Tuesday afternoon. The timetable of events was as follows (all times BST):

Tuesday 4pm: Match is thrown into doubt by a potential problem with floodlighting at the Kadriorg stadium.

7.15pm: Fifa announces that the game will go ahead at 4.45pm the next day despite a protest by Craig Brown, the Scotland manager, who wanted an earlier kick-off.

Wednesday 9.15am: Fifa confirms that the kick-off will be brought forward to 3pm after further protests from the Scottish camp.

10.30am: The game is now scheduled to kick off at 1pm although callers to the Estonia FA are still being told the game will kick off at 4.45.

11.05am: The Scotland team arrive at the stadium.

11.30am: Estonia FA officials arrive 90 minutes before the revised kick-off and reveal that the Estonia team are still 60 miles from the stadium as the Fifa deadline for their arrival passes.

11.45am: The deadline for handing team-sheets to the referee passes with no sign of the Estonia team.

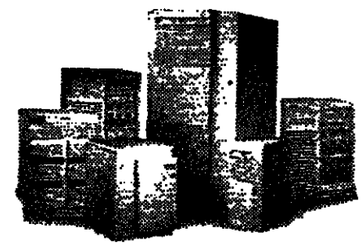
12.20pm: Scotland players warm up on the pitch. Scottish supporters begin to enter the ground but there are no home fans.

12.30pm: Fifa confirms that the match is scheduled to go ahead at 1pm.

1pm: Estonia fail to arrive at the stadium. The referee blows his whistle to start the match and Scotland kick off without any opponents. The referee blows again after three seconds to signal the game is abandoned.

MORSE

Détente



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